

“Hunger Cravings”

Pastor Al Brice | November 4, 2018

I’m very concerned for the Church in America because I’m seeing a lack of hunger and thirst for God and His Word. Notice that I didn’t say the things or blessings of God but a hunger for God Himself. If all I do is just seek His hand and not His heart and will (by daily feeding on His Word), I’ll end up with leanness of soul, dissatisfied with life, disillusioned with Christianity, and then become a lukewarm, anemic, weak, complacent, and double minded Christian.

What is **hunger**? ‘The painful sensation or state of weakness caused by the need of food; a strong or compelling desire or craving.’

God told the Israelites that the only way to live and have true success is through a hunger and craving for His Word, which is His will for our lives.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NKJV: ² And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

* **“Lives”** = ‘To live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live forever, be quickened, be alive, be restored to life or health.’

* Their experience of God’s care in the wilderness period, when they were unable to help themselves, was to teach them humility and to trust God for everything. They would see and experience His love and daily provisions. The memory of that experience should keep them from pride in their own achievements when entering the secure and prosperous land of Canaan.

*Always remember: every difficult situation, trial, and circumstance carries with it the possibility of an equal or greater benefit.

Romans 8:27-28 NKJV: ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.
²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

* We are to feed on His Word and feed on His faithfulness.

Psalm 37:3-4 NKJV:

³ Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Joshua 1:8 NKJV: This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

* There is physical hunger and a spiritual hunger. Your physical hunger is determined by your five senses and your spiritual hunger is determined by your spirit man.

* **Beware!!!**

Mark 14:38 NKJV: Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

#1. You are the one that determines what you're passionate about and for, whether the physical or the spiritual.

Matthew 5:6 NKJV: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Galatians 6:7-9 NKJV: ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

#2. Jesus experienced the same testing in His own wilderness that the Israelites experienced themselves.

Luke 4:1-4 NKJV: Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

#3. What did Jesus hunger for and crave?

* *Hunger will create passion and passion will produce action.*

John 4:32-34 NKJV: ³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

³³ Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 5:30 NKJV: I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 6:38 NKJV: For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- a. Even in His greatest struggle and intense pressure, He submitted to God’s will.

Matthew 26:38-39 NKJV: ³⁸ Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.”

- b. Who did Jesus consider to be His genuine family?

Matthew 12:47-49 NKJV: ⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

⁴⁸ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” ⁴⁹ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!

#4. What about our hunger and craving? Our primary concern and ultimate goal are to “do the will of God.”

- a. I must feed upon His Word, thereby, renewing my mind to do His will.

Romans 12:2 NKJV: And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- b. Doing God’s will must be my greatest craving and desire, just like Jesus.

*Jesus taught the disciples to pray:

Matthew 6:10 NKJV: Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

* In **Ephesians 6:6**, the Apostle Paul speaks of, “doing the will of God from the heart.”

*The writer of Hebrews states:

Hebrews 13:20-21 NKJV: ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Apostle John writes:

1 John 2:15-17 NKJV: ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

#5. Our salvation is the number one focus of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 1:3-4 NKJV: ³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

2 Peter 3:9 NKJV: ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.