

"HUNGER LOST AND FOUND"

1 Kings 3:5-10

I kept some books from my Dad's library on the supernatural. Reading When Heaven invades Earth by Bill Johnson. I began to get stirred: Brought back memories of early days of ministry – the power of being spiritually hungry.

I. THE HUNGER FACTOR

- A. The great question of life **V5** *What shall I give you...what do you want? Desire: Deep seated craving/longing/hunger*
 1. Hunger is a picture of what we really want/we truly value in life
 - a. *Sports: Success is often determined by which athlete/team is "hungry" – wanting to win/succeed.*
 1. *Jesus asked : What do you want? (blind man) Do you want to be made whole? (Bethesda)*
 - b. *What issue dominates your thoughts/conversations/time/energies? Sol. dreaming: Something on inside*
 2. Some have never given it any thought: They never consider in life – what do I want more than anything?
- B. Life is determined by hunger – by our desires: *God asking Solomon this at the beginning of his ministry*
 1. Whatever you are hungry for will dominate your life: Athletes sacrifice for Olympics/sports
 2. God asks: What is it that is the most important/highest value of your life?
 - a. *Hunger is shown by our thoughts/speech/decisions/time/priorities*
- C. Solomon says: I want the will of God for my life
 1. You have chosen something for me – what I want most is to be effective in doing your will!
 - a. *Can be calling: Preaching the Gospel b. Fruitfulness c. A supernatural dimension: Gifts/healing*
 2. The starting point of ministry is desire: **1 Tim 3:1** *If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desires a good work.*
 - a. *Reach out after/long for/covet after b. Gifts: 1 Cor 12:31 Earnestly desire/covet the best gifts*
 3. God reserves His best for the hungry: What do you want? YES! I'll give you more than you asked for
 - a. *Me as disciple: Pastor Mitchell asked a bunch of disciples to write him a letter and put down 1. What we felt God wanted us to do 2. what we wanted to do 3. What were we willing to do to see that accomplished in our lives?*

II. LOSING HUNGER

- A. The problem with hunger is that it can be lost
 1. If you are/were hungry at one time – don't assume you will be forever
 - a. *Bible picture of devotion/love: Fire! Fires can cool/go out!*
 2. Life has a way of taking away hunger
 - a. *Mark 4:18-19 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.* Speaking of being distracted by the needs/cares of life
 1. *Proverbs 27:7 A person who is full refuses honey, but even bitter food tastes sweet to the hungry.*
 3. Sin damages hunger for good things
 - a. *Eating something hot and you burn your tongue: The result is that you can't taste anything else; Damage!*
 4. We can lose hunger when we fail to fuel it: We are leaky vessels!
 - a. *We fail to take actions that fuel/fail to pray -seek it/fail to read – be inspired/talk to others - inspire*
 5. We can lose hunger through life's disappointments
 - a. *Jesus: When struggle in a city -- shake off the dust! b. Matt 24:12 B/C of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold...*
 1. *People burn us – we grow cool to the idea of God's will/ministering to people*
- B. It's sad for time to go by – and you realize you've lost hunger/lost the fire: *Old prophet – realized he lost it*
 1. *Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*

III. GETTING HUNGRY AGAIN

- A. The good news: You can get hunger back
 1. God knows human nature: He has factored our weakness in – and made a way for hunger to be restored
 - a. *Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground:*
- B. There is some possible paths to restoring hunger
 1. **We need to recognize our condition:** *Revelation 2:5 remember the height from which are fallen*
 2. **We may need to repent from disobedience:** *If there's something in particular we need to stop – do it!*
 3. **We need to ask God to meet with us – and renew spiritual hunger**
 4. **We need to fuel hunger:**
 - a. *God's word: The area we need b. Books that inspire c. People that help stir us*
 1. *Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

Early in ministry I wanted the supernatural: I read every book I could/I called/spoke to friends who wanted it. I got together and had prayer meetings with friends. In later years I would call men I knew had a supernatural touch/read books to inspire me.