



WOW: Word Of the Week

Hungry?

June 30, 2021

Christian friends, are you hungry? Are you hungry for God? Are you hungry for God's Word? Are you hungry for souls? Are you spiritually hungry?

Considering the same question from a different angle, "For what are you hungry?" What are your most intense spiritual hungers?

I have just finished ten days of resetting goals, reviewing and adjusting my own spiritual life, praying about God's mission in this world, asking myself what God wants from my life and in my life. As I spent time focused on God's will for my life, I read an article about spiritual hunger and spiritual appetites.

Here's what I have observed across 50+ years of spending lots of time with God's people. The way most of us have experienced church tends to crowd out our hunger for God.

I began to think about hunger. I talked to Jan about hunger. Hunger is the natural response of a baby with a physical need for nourishment. Adults can experience hunger when we are not really hungry. As adults, we identify certain "hungers" – for example, I am hungry for pizza.

Think about it! We do not hunger for things we have never eaten or experienced. We simply do not know.

Is it possible that we are not hungry for God because we have known how satisfying, enjoyable, pleasant, and fulfilling is his presence? Is it possible that we do not hunger for God's Word because we have not known its power, comfort, joy, pleasure, challenge, freshness, relevance? Perhaps we do not feel spiritual hungers because we have known little of spiritual nourishment.

Some suggestions.

- Seek influences in your life that will help you know God, to see God clearly, to understand his nature, his great love, and his saving plan in Jesus. Listen to those whose lives and words are solidly based in God's presence and plan. Commit to daily God time.
- Eliminate the influences that we tend to use as substitutes in our search for spiritual meaning. Be careful about substituting readings and study about the Bible for reading and study of the Bible. Commit to daily Word time.
- Distinguish the markers the world uses to measure spiritual success from the way in which God wishes to satisfy your spiritual hunger. Commit to daily prayer time to focus your life.
- Commit to sharing the spiritual journey with others who hunger spiritually. If the shared journey is focused on enjoyment, pleasure, and leisure activities, spiritual growth will be slow and difficult. Commit to daily spiritual growth.
- Develop a hunger for the things God desires—the salvation of souls, God's eternal mission and purpose.

How will you know you are making progress? Your speech will reveal your heart. The things you talk about, promote, encourage—these are the things you genuinely hunger for. Look within—see yourself. Others already know what you are hungry for!