



Fullness For The Hungry & Thirsty

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The dominating thoughts of the mind has the potential of materialising in reality and influencing destiny. Regarding the builders of the tower of Babel, God observed that “nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do” (Genesis 11:6). God’s decision to destroy the world at time of Noah was based on His observation that “the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Ephesians 3:20 confirms that God answers prayers “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”. It is obvious from the above that what happens in the heart does not end in the heart only but has the power to affect our lives and destiny.

The words ‘hunger’ and ‘thirst’ in the text does not merely refer to physical hunger for food and thirst for drink, even though those would be included; but rather focuses on Spiritual hunger and thirst after righteousness. When these become the dominating desires of a person, they will be satisfied.

‘Hunger and thirst’ are strong words, meaning an ardent, eager, famishing, all consuming craving, desire and passion of the soul for God and His righteousness.

The word ‘righteousness’ means rightness, quality of rightness or justice. It connotes:

- 1) Being right with God
- 2) The fulfilment of God’s will in the heart and soul
- 3) Rightness judged by the standard of God’s law
- 4) Justice and moral perfection held in love, both within a person and in the world.

In today’s world, many people hunger and thirst for power, position, fame, money, beauty, pleasure, etc. often to the point of neglecting their spiritual needs, which is the common tendency of many. Only a few truly long for God. These are people who cannot be satisfied by worldly

“... man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live ...” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

things. They truly seek and yearn after God and His righteousness, often more than food or physical needs of life. We find examples of such in scriptures such as:

- 1) Psalms 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
- 2) Psalm 84:1-2 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God
- 3) Psalm 143:6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land.

The above confirm that to ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’ is:

- 1) not seeking self-righteousness, but it is the righteousness that comes from God.
- 2) to depend, not on our own will-power to achieve it but upon God.

At the time Jesus taught this, based on outward appearances, if there were anybody who would qualify for such earnest passion and zeal for God, that would be the Pharisees and the Scribes, who were teachers of the Law. However, Jesus made a startling statement as part of the same teaching “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). This raises the bar on the quality of righteousness that Jesus was talking about to “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ” (Romans 3:21-22; John 7:37).

Hunger and thirst are not one time need. Constant filling requires constant hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness.