

I'm Hungry

*"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
Matthew 25:35-36*

There are so many kinds of hunger. What are you hungry for? Can it be attention, money, status, friends, food, love, or fellowship with Christ? Am I really hungry for God, or just the satisfaction that everything is going to be o.k. and really go "my way?" Does it mean that we are never satisfied until we have righteousness? What is righteousness? Is it Virtue? Morality? Justice? Honesty? Is it being good enough? Does it mean that we have to behave according to a certain religious or moral code?

Sometimes I want to search for the truth in my life. Sometimes, I want to do my own thing and not have God interfering.

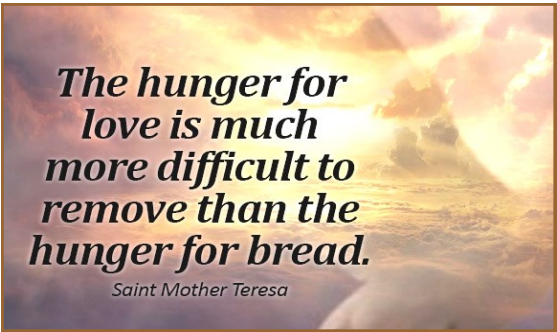
There is a place in the Bible where Christ talks about people being hungry and thirsty. Some were fed by others. Some who had much didn't share. Most of us have enough food and water, but do we give that to others. Does this Scripture only speak to food and water as we know it in the physical sense, or do we have an obligation to be fed and to feed others Spiritual food? If we are hungry we may have a hard time feeding others. The food and water is always there for us. All we need to do is ask. How hungry are we?

Eugene Peterson, in THE MESSAGE, translates one of the parables "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat." I like that. To me that beatitude means that I will never be perfectly happy until I have found God and put Him in control of my life.

Do we really want God in control, or only when we can't handle it ourselves?

Throughout history many people have experienced periods of hunger. It may

*"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great."
John Piper, A Hunger For God*



The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.

Saint Mother Teresa

be a lack of food supply caused by many different things. During drought people hunger because they have no food from the land. During war people have hungered because food was not available or they had no money to buy it. In our lives, we have probably never experienced that type of hunger. But we can experience many other forms of hunger – usually emotional. They are just as real to us as a physical hunger. We have a God who can help us with emotional hunger, but it isn't easy. We can also help ourselves and sometimes helping someone else who is experiencing a hunger we do not have will help us to satisfy our hunger.

Many times we say to people "I know just how you feel." But do we? Have we been in their shoes? Most of us have never experienced real hunger, whether it be of food, love, or security. We live in a sheltered world most of the time.

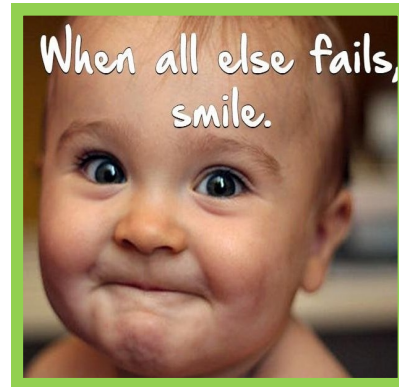
We are told in a native Indian prayer "Help me never to judge another until I have walked a mile in his moccasins." We can always say we aren't

judging, but we do it every day. In some instances, we want people to get a job and earn their food. After all, we have done that or were we fortunate enough to be born into a society where we always had enough food and always had shelter and clothing.

If only we could constantly be on that high and let Him rule without our humanness wanting to take over!!! Then we can be honest, virtuous, and morally right, and seek justice for ourselves. We would never be hungry. When we accept that God gives us the best, and let him be in control, we will be as Peterson says "on that high" with God.

I remember one person comparing our faith to the mercury in a thermometer. He indicated that we are sometimes filled with the Holy Spirit and we are on a "high". Other times we are searching, trying to do it on our own. The trust is always fluctuating according to how much we want to be in control, or how much we allow God to be in control. We don't have to be hungry. We have an obligation to make sure that others are not hungry. The choice is ours.

We have many opportunities to help those who are hungry, whether it is for food, love, companionship. Just saying a cheerful "Good Morning" to someone on the street may be a blessing to someone else. It doesn't cost us much and it may bring a smile to a face that hasn't smiled yet that day.



"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms."



"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."
Mother Teresa

Prayer: Father, Please help us to hunger for Your righteousness and love. Often we are hungry and don't know what to do. Please guide us that we will see the hunger in others and try to help them by sharing a few of the many gifts You have given us. Amen

1. Can we ever hope to accomplish the feelings expressed by Erma Bombeck?
2. How can we hunger for God?
3. How can we help others who are hungry?
4. What types of hunger can we help solve?

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"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'".
Erma Bombeck