

On Hunger: Who will you be?

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This message covers

- How a one-eyed illiterate Negro helped to start a revival movement that you and over 500 million are now a part of today.
- An understanding of the cycles of creation, hunger and judgment that the bible shows.
- How our generation can take steps to hunger for God.

Information notice board

Health notice in these difficult times of Corona Virus – Covid – 19:

Symptoms: Fever, dry cough, and fatigue are most common, while thick mucus from coughs, shortness of breath, sore throat, and headache are less common

Prevention: wash your hands, cover your cough, take care of yourself, and keep alert to the information that is provided.ⁱ Also consider Social distancing – isolation from each other and less physical contact.

Finally – do not be overcome with fear but overcome with the confidence from the Lord:
He who [a]dwells in the shelter of the Most High will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand]. Psalms 91: 1(AMP)

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist – one who seeks pleasure for the sake of it. I didn't thirst or hunger for righteousness. Instead, I drank alcohol a lot, I was a professional DJ and loved the music – infact my nickname was "Wickie Dickie". I had quite a number of girlfriends over the years and I lived for the fun of it because I didn't care about God - To my career and life was going well! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has now overhauled my life to run after Him and to live by the Holy Spirit rather than the Flesh. You can read my full testimony [here](#):
- 2) **About these series.** The Lord Jesus gave me a single word "Blossom" as I was praying for a word for this season and series. This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This lesson is one of those messages, but what does it mean to blossom?
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
- 4) **Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)** and keep up with our videos which support the website.
- 5) **Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Consider supporting:**
Persecuted.com. 1 in 9 Christians around the world experience high levels of persecution. In countries like North Korea, Somalia, Nigeria, India and Russia, persecution is on the rise so support this ministry in it's work that brings news from around the world on the persecuted church of Christ.

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Part 1: Basics

What does it mean to become who you are through hunger? Let me help you, come with me to the year 1906.

“disgraceful intermingling of the races...they cry and make howling noises all day and into the night. They run, jump, shake all over, shout to the top of their voice, spin around in circles, fall out on the sawdust blanketed floor jerking, kicking and rolling all over it. Some of them pass out and do not move for hours as though they were dead. These people appear to be mad, mentally deranged or under a spell. They claim to be filled with the spirit. They have a one eyed, illiterate, Negro as their preacher who stays on his knees much of the time with his head hidden between the wooden milk crates. He doesn't talk very much but at times he can be heard shouting, "Repent," and he's supposed to be running the thing... They repeatedly sing the same song, "The Comforter Has Come."”

That is how the Los Angeles times newspaper described the Azusa street revival.. which is commonly regarded as the beginning of the modern-day Pentecostal Movement.

Today, there are more than 500 million Pentecostal and charismatic believers across the globe, and it is the fastest-growing form of Christianity today.

This movement was birthed by a one-eyed illiterate Negro called William Seymour who got tired of getting crumbs from heaven fed to the dogs. He wanted more. This one-eyed Negro decided to hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit and he didn't care to be called mad, mentally deranged or under a spell. He didn't care to hide his head between the wooden milk crates. He was searching for spiritual milk. What was the end result?

Those who hunger and thirst shall be filled – the Lord declares (Matthew 5: 6).

But what does hunger have to do with Blossoming in the Lord?

To blossom and to bear fruit in the Lord, first you must be hungry. The hunger stage is therefore a foundation, it is the stage at which a person realizes their dependence of God, then they cry and then he fills them and then in the process they blossom but before we come to hunger, first let's recap and understand the word “Blossom” as shared in a [previous message](#).

Previously on Shawele road: A Recap of “To Blossom”

The word “Blossom” has various definitions as follows.

blos·som¹

|(blɒs'əm)

n.

1. A flower or cluster of flowers.
2. The condition or time of flowering: *peach trees in blossom*.
3. A condition or period of maximum development.

intr.v. **blos·somed, blos·som·ing, blos·soms**

- a. To come into flower; bloom.
- b. To develop; flourish: *The child blossomed into a beauty*.

Think of an Orange tree (an example of a flowering tree). What are the stages of growth of before it starts bearing fruit? This summary can help you:¹

1. **Planting.** Seeds from the “parent stock” are planted in a pot.
2. **Sprouting.** The seeds sprout (little leaves or shoots appear). For the seeds to sprout, they will need to have been planted in soil (e.g. in a pot) and have access to loads of sunlight.
3. **Growing.** As the plant grows, loads of fertilizer and water will be needed as well as continued exposure to sunshine. It is typical to transfer the plant into the garden, having previously been in a pot.
4. **Blossoming.** It takes between 2 and 5 years for an orange tree to Blossom or bloom. Blossoming is the process of flowers to start appearing. **Blossoming is the stage before a tree starts bearing fruit.** Flower development takes a lot of energy from a plant and so before the blossoming, in winter countries, the orange tree enters a dormant phase in the winter (resting) to allow flower bud development to begin in spring. During this period, sunshine and water is critical. Blossoms emerge once warmer spring weather arrives.
5. **Pollination.** The blossoms (flowers) with their bright colours and intoxicating nectar attract pollinators like bees. Pollination is the process of transferring pollen from the female part to the male part to allow fertilisation to take place and hence enabling seeds to be produced. **Many blossoms fall from the tree before pollination. Up to 99 percent of these flowers fall off without ever resulting in the formation of fruit.**
6. **Fruit.** Once pollinated, it can take an orange tree anywhere from five to 18 months to produce viable fruit that is ready to be harvested.

The Word of God (the bible) is the Seed (see parable of the sower, Matthew 13: 1 – 23) and this is the starting point. Fruit grows from a Seed. You cannot grow or blossom without the Seed! Jesus also said he is the vine and we are the branches and so we depend on him (John 15: 1-11) as our sunshine, our soil, our fertiliser and our living waters SO within this context - based on the word of the Lord, the stage of blossoming is an exciting stage, it's when flowers come. These flowers attract the pollinators and shortly thereafter fruit are produced, it is also a time to watch as 99% of flowers never get pollinated and so never result in formation of fruit.

The fruit that comes about after the season of blossoming is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and it manifests itself in a number of ways. The anchor verse on the fruit of the Holy Spirit is described as follows:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5: 22-25 (NKJV).

For a growing Christian, the fruit of the Spirit will therefore come after a season of hungering.

So now we know that the fruit come – but they come only after a period of hungering, why is this necessary? let me explain.

Part 2: Examples from the bible

What is the worst form of drought you think there could be? Perhaps:

- **Locusts in formation descend and not eating all the crops but stinging people? (Rev 9: 1-6)**

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ²When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

- **A war siege so bad that people have no food and so mothers cook their young children in turns and eat them together with their neighbours? (2 Kings 6: 24-30)**

Some time later, Ben-Hadad king of Aram mobilized his entire army and marched up and laid siege to Samaria. There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey’s head sold for eighty shekels[a] of silver, and a quarter of a cab[b] of seed pods[c] for five shekels.[d]

As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, “Help me, my lord the king!”

The king replied, “If the Lord does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?” Then he asked her, “What’s the matter?”

She answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we’ll eat my son.’ So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, ‘Give up your son so we may eat him,’ but she had hidden him.”

When the king heard the woman’s words, he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and they saw that, under his robes, he had sackcloth on his body.

- **A 7-year famine predicted by God, it's so bad, people sell themselves to Egypt's king. (Gen 47: 13-21)**

How about a drought for the word of God?

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, when I will send hunger over the land, Not hunger for bread or thirst for water, but rather [a hunger] for hearing the words of the Lord. Amos 8:11 (AMP).

The hunger for God always follows a time of bumper harvest. What this mysterious spiritual revelation means is this:

God is merciful and before he passes judgment on people, he does the following:

1. **He sends his prophets.** This is a time when the land is full of "men of God" warning people to repent. The time when he chases after us like a man wooing a lover.
2. **He sends more prophets – the prophets of doom.** This is a time when the land is full of "men of God" warning people to repent – for the end is near.
3. **Then judgment falls on people.** When people rebel, he stops wooing. When I called you did not listen Zechariah 7:13 In the bible – this is the time they were taken to exile – Babylon and Assyria.
4. **Then there is silence from God** – a time when the land is resting and recovering, when people realise that they don't live on bread alone but on every word from the mouth of God (Matthew 4: 4). This is the time when men start getting hungry – so hungry, they are begging. How long can this silence last? In Israel after Malachi came, there were 400 years with no prophet, not a word! This is the time from when the Old Testament ended and the New Testament started – when John cried "Repent for the Kingdom of God is near".
5. **Then the Kingdom/Salvation of God comes.** The bible shows this process above in many cycles.
 - a. **Cycle 1: Creation.** Adam the first priest rebelled against God and then humans became wicked, God sent his righteous people like Noah to preach. They refused to listen. Then judgment came – and then a new creation – with the animals from the ark replenishing and filling the earth.
 - b. **Cycle 2: Exodus.** The people of Canaan, like the Amelekites rebelled against God, he sent messengers to them for 400 hundred years, they had no fear of God, then he sent Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through Moses and Joshua leading the Israelites – Judgment came at the hand of the Israelites, and then a new nation, a form of new creation, a land flowing with milk and honey.
 - c. **Cycle 3: Jesus' first coming.** The people of Israel in the promised land rebelled against God, he sent prophets to them, some they beat, some they killed, and then he sent them into exile and then he sent his Son Jesus to lead them out of exile to the Promised land
 - d. **Cycle 4: Jesus' second coming.** After the Church in the book of Acts spread the Gospel of Jesus, the people eventually rebelled and didn't believe the gospel. God sent his apostles and evangelists (the new prophets of old). Some they beat and some they jailed and some they killed and then there will be silence in which men will hunger for God and yet he will not be there ... then comes Judgment and then a new creation – the New Heaven and new Earth.

Part 3a: Where our generation is...as the wheels of time turn

We know that Jesus has come a first time, so the new creation is here. It means we are in the in-between period – the dangerous time when we have heard so many men of God (the bumper harvest) that we forget that after the harvest, comes the years of famine – the years of judgment, the silence of God and then suddenly, without warning, he comes!

The worst punishment on people would therefore be the time when there is no word, no vision from God so of course the people perish without a vision (proverbs 29:18). The reason for this is because as soon as the time of silence ends, the kingdom comes, with little or no warning.

God says:

- Meditate on my word day and night (Psalms 1: 3)
- Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word from God (Matthew 4:4); and
- Open your mouth wide and receive (Psalms 81: 10).

If you do these things and show him you are hungry then: When others are in famine - ravens feed you (1 Kings 17: 6). Your oil never runs out (1 Kings 17: 16), you are like tree planted by streams - bearing fruit even in drought (Psalms 1: 3).

Hunger for God is a work of the Holy Spirit because those who are not hungry - have dull ears and have been given up by God to their own desires (Romans 1: 24) – these are being prepared by God in silence for judgment.

So rejoice you who hunger and thirst for righteousness! it means the glorious Spirit rests on you! It means your salvation is near! It means open the door so the Lord can come in and eat a meal with you (Rev 3: 20)!

Part 3b: What must our generation do to increase hunger for God?

There is a series of adverts for snicker's chocolates, it has various iterations where someone turns into a monster or someone else and then they only change back into themselves when they eat a snicker. Then it ends with the tagline. "Snickers, you're not you when you are Hungry".

In our generation, for parts of the world, especially the west, they don't know what it's like to go hungry, my children have never gone hungry – and so we are a generation used to get everything on a tap and so the idea of going hungry – is downright cruel some would say... but of course, God's ways are different from ours. What does God have to tell us in our generation today?

1. **Run to the wilderness** - to the desert, to the mountain top - like Moses at the burning bush, like John in the Wilderness, like Jacob at Bethel, like Paul in Arabia.. Men in the wilderness are dependent on God who there fills their hunger, far from the madding crowds, for it is an intimate love affair- one being wooed and one wooing - love affairs are never public are they? Everything public whose every step is broadcast on social media we are know - fake. The authentic is a private

battle, private lessons. Do you realise how many times Jesus was alone with God? In fact the bible says he was a man of sorrows. He even prayed to God with loud tears and in the Spirit with groanings that couldn't be uttered and God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God! (Hebrews 5: 7 and Romans 8: 26)

2. **Fast.** As you go hungry physically, Fasting opens your spiritual antennas to be filled with spiritual food.
3. **Hang around spiritually sensitive people.** If you spend time with people who never speak the word (which is life) you will never know that you are hungry. You will think you can see (yet you are blind) and that you hear (yet are deaf) and that you are full (yet you are malnourished). You won't even know the time of the day. So therefore, hang around spiritually sensitive people, that they might help you discern what time of day it is, lest you perish without warning.
4. **Watch spiritual programs.** Find time alone to get real quiet with God and then learn from his men of Old – his generals. When you watch spiritual programs, you are learning from someone's else's journey and the tips they share with you are gifts from God to all his church and not for the old saint alone. The bible was written for our benefit, that we might learn from others. Likewise, when you watch programs on TV channels like God.TV or Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), you learn something from those men and women who are at the spiritual battle frontline.
5. **Sing, sing sing ...** Songs of lament, songs of sorrow, songs of Zion, songs of praise. Old hymns, New hymns. Sing your hunger to God and God the merciful will sing over you with Joy! (Zeph 3: 17). God has spoken once, twice I have heard him say, Power Belongs to God (Psalms 62: 11). Singing to God declares your dependence on him and he will not fail to appear for those who depend on him for life itself.

To be hungry for God is to love him so much you want to be consumed by him, spending 40 days and nights with no food in the wilderness- yet never alone. To be hungry for God is to wait on him- to tarry until he revives your dry bones, until he breaths new revelation, until you blossom!

Hunger for God can best be summarised in the Azusa street revival and that hunger by one man that birthed hunger in many, and then blossomed and bore fruit – giving us today's Pentecostal movement.

Many of today's generals: T.D Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Billy Graham, Kathryn Kuhlman, Reinhard Bonkke, Robert Kyanja, Sid Roth, Patricia King - the fruit of a one eyed illiterate Negro.

Who will you likewise benefit? Who will you become when you become hungry for God?

Next steps

You don't have to wait for others to get hungry before God can visit and save us from ourselves. Hunger by one man or woman can lead to revival of a city, a country, a planet. To start your personal hunger for God journey:

1. **Create time to be alone with God.** This is your wilderness experience, separate from the madding times. It is in those times that he will shape you into the world changer.
2. **Study the men and women of Old in the bible.** What did they do to cultivate their hunger for God?

3. **Who is your hunger buddy?** Who will you search with? It helps to have someone walk with you for when you are weak, they can help you be revived in spirit.

ⁱ <https://www.vox.com/2020/1/31/21113178/what-is-coronavirus-symptoms-travel-china-map>