



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Dgroup Discussion Guide

June 3, 2012

INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR GOD

WORSHIP: In Your Presence/ Love to be in Your Presence/ You are My Everything/ You Make me Lie Down in Green Pastures

WELCOME: Half filled or half empty.

Look at the a glass that has water up to the middle. Would you describe it as half- filled or half- empty? Using this illustration in your life, particularly your Christian life – are you half filled, or half empty?

WORD:

“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6

We all have certain needs, the most basic of these needs are the need to drink and to eat so that we can survive. In the same way, in order to survive spiritually we must also have a hunger and thirst for God.

Matthew 5:6 tells us that we should “hunger and thirst after righteousness”. The word **after** stresses that we must pursue it, it cannot happen by itself. We must pursue intimacy with God.

In many things in our life what drives us becomes our passion. It becomes the thing we crave for, the thing we treasure.

- Some are driven by a passion for money.
- Some are driven by a passion for pleasure.
- Some are driven by a passion for pleasure.
- Some are driven by a passion for sports.
- Some are driven by a passion for fame and notoriety.

But none of this can fully satisfy – only one passion can fully satisfy us ---- **a passion for God**.

Jesus says that those who have a thirst, a passion for God will never be disappointed.

What is righteousness? Righteousness is an attribute of God. It means being upright.

So when we pursue God, we are also pursuing to become more and more like Christ. So to paraphrase our bible verse for today, we can say “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to become more like Christ.” If this becomes our passion, we will find fulfillment. We will be satisfied.

So why then should hunger? In John 6:35 Jesus says *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”*

And why should we thirst? Jesus tells the Samaritan woman *“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”*

We are reminded and assured that it only our passion – our hungering and thirsting for God that can satisfy us. But ONLY IF we decide to pursue it.

David had a passion for God. He says in Psalm 63:1 *“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh ^{1b} yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.”*

Like David, we too should have a passion for God. We should long for God – hunger and thirst for God. And God has promised that if we earnestly seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him. (Jeremiah 29:13). He has also said that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. (James 4:8) God isn’t difficult to find, He isn’t hard to look for. Often times we have difficulty finding God because we are not looking hard enough or maybe we are looking in the wrong places. But our Father has promised us, that if we seek Him earnestly . . . and if we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him.

Why are we so hesitant, so fearful to seek Him?

Reason 1: FEAR

- Fearful that He will make a fool out of us
- Fearful that we will lose control.
- Fearful that He may ask you to do something you do not want to do
- Fearful that He may ask you to stop doing something you want to do but you know is wrong

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus tells us to take His yoke. When we take His yoke, that means that we are partnering with Him. . . and that He will be with us. And that yoke is light. . . and in that we will find rest. Often times we need to get to a point that we no longer know what to do, and it is only then that we relinquish control over to God.

Reason 2: IGNORANCE OF GOD

- Sometimes the problem is we are hesitant to seek Him because we do not know Him.
- That is why it is important to learn more about God.

Reason 3: OUR THIRST FOR GOD IS OVERPOWERED BY SOMETHING WHICH HAS REPLACED HIM

- We start our right in our Christian walk but somewhere along the way we begin to pursue another goal – it can be money, a career, or something else
- The bible tells us that we cannot serve two masters. We will end up loving one and hating the other (Matthew 6:24)

A Passion for God is not about . . . rules or regulation, about how many times we go to church, about how much money we give for tithes or give to charity.

Our passion for God is about PURSUING INTIMACY WITH GOD. It is about the heart. It is about love. It is about a relationship.

In Revelations 3:15-16 God is telling us that he wants us to be “hot” for Him and that He doesn’t like us to be lukewarm in our desire to pursue Him.

How do we restore intimacy with God?

1. Tell Jesus you want a closer walk with Him.
2. Initiate conversations with Him through prayer
3. Confess your failures.
4. Read His love letters.
5. Express our love for Him through worship and praise.

Discussion Questions:

1. Complete the sentence: My hunger and thirst is for _____ (Be specific)
2. At this point in your life, how do you feel? Are you filled? Or are your empty? What are you filled with or what is lacking? Or maybe perhaps you find that you have become lukewarm?

WORKS:

Our Lord is asking us to draw near to Him. Looking back on the different topics that we have discussed, the various insights and learnings we have become aware of, the commitments that we have made over the past several months. . . looking back at the previous entries in your journals. . . where are you now? Have any of your commitments been kept? Ask yourself: Have I really begun to pursue intimacy with God? Am I on fire for Him? Have I become cold? Or perhaps lukewarm? During this series of Pursuing Intimacy with God, what has God been telling me. . . asking of me? Have I, like David began to earnestly seek Him with all of my heart?

In prayer with your dgroup, ask the Lord to grant you the grace to continue to be on fire for Him, to become more passionate about Him. . . to desire to become more intimate with Him. Together let us pray for courage to face our fears, wisdom to understand more about our Creator and strength so that we will not be distracted of things of this world instead we continue to keep our focus on God and in pleasing Him.