

Hungering for God

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Holiness Matters

Text: Psalm 42:1, Matthew 5:6

Holiness Principle # 8 – Jesus has placed a deep desire in my heart to know Him and to seek Him above every pursuit in my life.

One of the most important parts of holiness is knowing God in deeper ways. Going deep in relationship is called intimacy. It is moving past the surface level of small talk and favors and really getting to understand and know someone.

Many people see holiness as a way to obtain things from God. If this is what serving God is all about then the whole thing becomes about manipulation. If you do this, then I will do this. It is so easy to slip into a works-based mindset. We are not saved by our works but by the grace and love of God. Our walk with God is not about performance but about love. All the blessings that come from God, heaven, miracles, provision and security, to name just a few, all stem from being a part of the family of God.

Many people want to know what they can do and get away with and still be ok with God. This is wrong thinking. It is like asking how close can I walk to the edge of a muddy cliff before I fall. The real question is- why are you flirting with death, hurt, betrayal and disappointment? Some people have a hunger for the thrill and a desire for danger. Others who have wisdom value life, safety and stability. The world tells us that these things are boring and to risk it all. The Bible reminds us of the value of sure foundations, living soberly, thinking clearly and loving deeply.

Holiness deals with desire. Desire deals with appetite. **Proverbs 13:2-4, Psalm 37:4-5**

Those focused on worldly and fleshly things have different desires and appetites.

Proverbs 23:31-35 Alcohol is a great illustration of how sinful desires cause us to hunger after misery.

Seeking and finding God comes out of a wholehearted desire for Him. **Jeremiah 29:13**

Truly knowing God comes from a single-hearted devotion to Him. To seek implies persistence, perseverance and commitment. Seeking God does not imply that He is hiding from us but that He is worth getting to know. To learn how He thinks, what He thinks and who He is. This comes from spending time with Him. This is true of any relationship. God reveals Himself to those who truly desire to know Him. Half-hearted relationship, commitment or long-distance relationships never get into the deep things of life and knowing.

One of the keys to really knowing God is learning to wait on Him. **Psalm 25:5, Psalm 46:10, Psalm 27:14, Psalm 39:7** Let me define waiting - not rushing. Most “waiting rooms” are filled with people that are in a hurry. Hungering for God, knowing God abiding and doing life with God is not effectively done in a rush. **John 15:5**

One of the great joys of living a holy life is our constant connection to Jesus. Much sin, confusion, indifference is found in our rushing and in our motion. With much motion comes commotion. Much happens spiritually in the holy hush. You will never hear of a holy rush. **Revelation 3:20** Jesus says I will come in and dine with you. Real hunger is satisfied by both good food and good conversation. The word that best describes this is communion. Communion is more than the memorial elements of the crucifixion. It is the inner feeding of spirit-to-Spirit relationship with Christ that fills the soul. **John 6:53-58**

This communion changes everything, especially our prayer time. We move from the idea of prayer being only a certain specific time of communication to a continual abiding, a constant feeding and doing life together. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

One of the ways we express our relationship with God is when we call it our walk with God. Couples who do life together walk together, recreationally, spiritually and emotionally. To walk together means that we are in step both in direction and pace with the Spirit of God. **Amos 3:3** Think about this Enoch walked in such agreement and relationship with God that He just took him. **Genesis 5:24** When we are “in step” with the Spirit of God we will never be out of step with Him by walking in the flesh. **Galatians 5:16-18, 1 John 1:7** One of the benefits of being “in step” with the Spirit of God is that we will also be “in step” with other believers. Walking in the Spirit creates a holy life.

The highest goal of holiness is to please the Lord in everything we think, say and do. **Colossians 3:17** We are talking about a hunger for God. Many times, we can be hungry and eat something that doesn't sit right, it wasn't what we were craving. Hungry doesn't mean we are starving it can simply mean that we have a taste for something. The questions that we have to answer is- what fills us? What truly satisfies our life? What fills our heart? What do you have a taste for? **Psalms 37:4**

Holiness means that we have lost a taste or a desire for the things of the world and have a new craving for the things of God and to be with God. **Psalms 34:8-9** There is no want for those who trust in Him. **John 4:14, John 6:35** Those who desire to live holy, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. **Matthew 5: 6**