

When You Want It All... And Don't Have It Yet!

Three of our Father's desires...

That we would get Jesus into our skin! "I am crucified with Him but alive, *but it's no longer me but Christ in me and His life I now live by His faith!*" **Gal 2.20** "This is a faithful saying: *if we are dead with Christ, we will also live with him!* If we suffer with Him, we will also reign with him! If we deny him, He also will deny us!" **2Tim 2.11-12** "*If we are dead with Christ to the elemental things of the world why as though worldlings* do you still need the rules?" **Col 2.20** "This is the predetermined destination God has for you, to be transformed into the image of His dear Son!" **Romans 8.29** "But we, with clear view, begin seeing in ourselves the reflected glory of the Lord as we are changed into His image by the Spirit of God!" **2Cor 3.18** "And while we can't see where it is that we'll end up as God's children, we know that when we see Jesus we will see how much like Him we have become!" **1John 3.2**

To bring inside what is outside! "Truthfully I tell you that the one who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do and even greater because I am going to My Father!" **J14.12** "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, who came tempting Him to see a sign..." **Mt 16.1,16** "You go and these signs will follow those who believe..." **Mk 16.17** "And they returned with joy saying even devils obey us in your name!" **Lk 10.17**

To invade/indwell our natural lives! "If you love Me you will keep My words and My Father will love you *and we will come and make our home in you!*" **J14.23** "What, don't you know that you are the temple of God and *the Spirit lives in you?*" **1Cor3.16** "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit whom you have received from God and you are no longer your own! You are bought with a price so glorify God in your *body and spirit* which are His!" **1Cor 6.19,20**

To be intimate, infused, and inhabited by God... Is our brand of Christianity! But what do we do when we want it all but just can't seem to find it!

One Constant Guide... Hunger... "I say to you that *if you ask*, it will be given... *if you seek*, you will find... and *if you knock*, it will be opened to you!" **Lk11.9** "I stand at the door and I am knocking, *if any many hears My voice and opens the door*, I will come in to him and will eat with him and he with Me!" **Rev3.20** "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled!*" **Mt 5.6**

"What if I don't really feel any hunger pains?" Just look for areas that aren't working! May be doing what Jesus would do with your money, but not with your relationships... **HUNGER!** Maybe have good marriage, but no peace... **HUNGER!** Maybe have great assurance of salvation... but no self-esteem! **HUNGER!** Lots of self-esteem but no compassion...

If you don't feel any hunger pains then you are either already "perfect..." Satiated by comparative or self-set standards... Anesthetized by worldly drunkenness... "Eat, drink and be merry" syndrome... Or never been on, or no longer on, the adventure... We can say we are following Jesus... We can fool ourselves/other's into thinking we are walking rightly...

But in the quiet hours of the night we know something is missing/not right! We can say that we are doing what Jesus would have us do... But there is something missing that is not just "more maturity!"

Hunger and thirst for righteousness! Use the reverse "Apple Test!" The Apple Test: Natural hunger? If you would eat an apple you are hungry! If not/habit! Spiritual hunger? Use the Reverse: If you would eat "the apple" you're not hungry for God!

Eating the apple? What do you hunger for more than righteousness and reality of experience with God! I want to know what it is to be rich! To be famous! To be accomplished! To be powerful! To be loved! To be beautiful! Everything we want can be found in His righteousness... our experience w/Him!

Everything we hunger for is in Him because *He* put the original designs in us at the beginning! It's only sin that has distorted the longings and magnetized what we misperceive to be the answers to our hunger! And it will only be righteous and real when we find it all again in God; love, beauty, strength, might, prosperity, completion!

Getting it right... We voraciously attack the Word of God! We will not be denied it's nourishment, comfort, peace and power! If it fills at all, let it fill us! If it lives for any, let it live in us! If it delivers, let it deliver me! MEDITATE! All it takes is just one or two scriptures that come alive and you will be hooked! *All I want, all I need!*
Don't delay... Set off on an intentional adventure of intense discovery!

We cry out to the Holy Spirit for help! He was given to us as a "down payment" on our lives in heaven... But also as One who would lead us and guide us into all truth! "Holy Spirit, please open the way for me to see and hear and understand God's word and ways!"
Engage the One who has the keys to everything you want in, and out of, life!

We plead with our brothers and sisters in Christ for help! "Lay down your life for me... Be strong and very courageous... and speak the truth to me with love that will not lie!" "Snatch me out of the fire if you see me burning... and don't let me harden my heart against God without a fight!"
There are people set in your life that are undervalued and unused!

And don't accept placations – the avoidance of your anger, discomfort, pain – by compromising the truth... "You're just fine the way you are!"
"In the end it will not be the words of our enemies that we remember but the silence of our friends..."

If you're not walking in His steps... find a coach not a cheerleader! Stop pampering the flesh that needs to be fit for the battle for men's souls!

Our Brand of Faith...

Really believing what we say we believe is really true... Living the faith we say we have... Allowing it to make a difference in us... And then touching the world around us with the power of our faith to show the love of God! All working by the Word, Spirit and Community of like believers!