



HUNGRY FOR GOD?

By: Phillip Hayes

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. [Matthew 5:6]

In the above photograph you see a train that is not only filled to capacity with multitudes of people; the roofs of every train car is also covered with people.

No, these folks are not going to a sporting event. They are making their journey to a religious event! They are Hindus going to a Hindu Festival!

Basically, Hinduism is defined as follows: *"The Hindu scriptures, like the Buddhist, dwell ... on withdrawal from the realm of pleasure. The spiritually mature man is one who "abandons desires," who "has lost desires for joys," who "withdraws, as a tortoise his limbs from all sides, his senses from the objects of sense." Hence the ideal man as depicted in the Bhagavad Gita: a man of discipline, who acts without worrying about the fruits of his action, a man who is unmoved by acclaim and by criticism.... That Hinduism and Buddhism sound so much alike is not shocking. The Buddha was born a Hindu. But he carried the theme of sensory indifference further, boiling it down to a severe maxim—life is suffering—and placing it in the center of his philosophy."*

Trumpet Messenger Page 1

By this definition, we see similarities that would be found in most all religions including Christianity. Specifically that one should desire a separation from the world and it's influences.

I am sure you have seen or heard of the millions of Muslims that make their journey each year to Mecca for their religious gathering.

Millions of Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and countless other religions dedicate themselves in various ways. Within these religions, millions dedicate themselves to prayer several times each and every day. Millions lead consecrated fasting lives. Holiness and separation from the world is the lifestyle of multiplied millions of these people.

This leads me to believe, there is a hunger for God in the world!

You may argue that all these people remain lost without Jesus, and I would be quick to agree. The Apostle Paul credited those in Judaism as being zealous toward God, but recognized they were also lost without Christ. *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."* [Romans 10:1-3]

However, my point is this: Are you as a Christian as hungry for God as these that I have mentioned? Are you as dedicated to holy living as the Muslim, the Hindu? Is your prayer and fasting lifestyle as committed and intense as theirs? Are you as zealous to win converts to Christ as they are to win converts to their religion?

Many professing Christians seem to have lost their hunger and thirst for righteousness. Has God's ministers watered down the Gospel so much that people today hardly recognize the Truth?

While it seems the world's religions are experiencing tremendous growth, Christianity seems bogged down in its worldliness and disregard for evangelism. There is little faithfulness left among believers.

You might say, "Brother, you sure are painting a bleak picture of Christianity, surely it's not that bad".

My friend, if you would take the time to examine yourself in light of those dear saints found in the Old and New Testaments, you would agree with me. Christians as a whole have lost their hunger and thirst for God and His purposes.

The pages of the Bible are filled with men and women that were as dedicated as anyone in any religion.

Hebrews chapter eleven mentions a few of the men and women that lived and died trusting our God. The writer ends his list of these men and women of faith this way: *"Women received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise."* [Hebrews 11:35-39]

Do you realize the Apostles (except for John) were all murdered for their faith in Jesus. They tried to kill John by boiling him in oil, but he survived! Christians throughout the ages have been mutilated, tortured and murdered for their faith and burning desire to evangelize the world.

I have heard folks testify in church that they would die for the Lord. But, when it came to being faithful to God . . . However, the truth is: faithful, dedicated, giving Christians are hard to be found! No my friend, if you won't live for Him, you certainly would not die for the Lord.

In one of my articles, I remember making this comment, and it is so true. Most Christians today have no clue what a real revival is! To know what a revival is, they would have to go to the Bible Book Store and purchase a book about Azusa Street or some other old time movement of God.

Sadly, most ministers today live in the past! Their sermons are filled with references to what GOD DID, not what God is doing.

A minister once said, "Church should be a place where something happens in every service that only God can do."

Where is the God of Elijah? Where is the God of Paul? Where is the God of the men and women we read about that performed supernatural exploits throughout the world?

Think about it! Just a few years ago coliseums were filled with people attending Billy Graham's Crusades. And there were many other ministers including Jimmy Swaggart that was able to attract hundreds of thousands to Christian Crusades.

I know, I know! There are crusades today, but examine them. Nothing but worldliness: rock stars imitating Christians, Rap music, laser light shows, and NO GOSPEL! At least the Graham and Swaggart crusades did have anointed gospel music and they did preach from the King James Version Bible! What they preached convicted the sinners!

As a sinner, I was convicted of my sins when I watched a Billy Graham crusade. These modern day so-called camp meetings and crusades just makes me sick to my stomach!

Some of the people attending these meetings may be hungry for God, but all they are getting is entertainment and a watered down Gospel that couldn't save a nat!

Hungry for God or hungry for the world? I can talk to you for thirty minutes and know where you are at with the Lord. Give me your cell phone for three minutes and I will know what your hunger is for. Your contact list will tell on you! When church time comes, your attendance or lack of attendance will tell on you. How many times have you lied to your minister, or to me about your faithfulness, or your giving?

Most of you would be shocked if I gave you the names of the people including ministers that have lied to me saying, their offering was in the mail, or I am going to send you an offering, and never did it!

It's time to take your mask off! Why pretend any longer? It's time to repent and ask God to give you the hunger and thirst for God you once had! You might as well admit it! You are doing things and allowing things in your life and home, you would have never allowed when you first started out with the Lord. You use to be hungry for righteousness, now it's your lust for the things this world has to offer!

It looks as if everyone is criticizing anyone that is trying to serve and promote the purposes of God. A dedicated holy lifestyle is mocked and laughed at by ministers that once knew the way of holiness. It seems to me that Christians today want to blend with the world rather than being set apart from the world.

God's great purpose for the church is to publish and preach the Gospel to all the world. However, very, very few Christians will support missions or evangelism! They will eagerly support a building program or some other carnal purpose, but not the Gospel!

Critics are everywhere! Many today laugh and mock the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses for their door to door type evangelism. Some people laugh at some of the Baptist preachers in our town because they will preach on a street corner, or hand out tracts. Some of the very churches and Christians some of you criticize have more zeal for God than you have!

Yes, you laugh, you mock and you criticize; all the while you never witness for Jesus, hand out a tract, pay your tithes, give offerings for missions and evangelism, or attend church on a regular basis. You my friend are deceiving your own self!

I know some of you are getting madder by the minute! Go ahead, get mad at me. But I believe deep down in your heart, you know I am telling the Truth!

Years ago I was wanting to put my tent up in a town in Georgia. I had secured the lot, but the owner wanted a certificate of liability insurance. I didn't personally have insurance, but they said they would accept a certificate from the church I was attending.

I asked the Pastor if they would do this for me and he said he would check on it for me. A few days later, I was at the church and the Pastor's mother informed me they would never jeopardize their church for a revival. Obviously, it didn't have anything to do with jeopardizing their church, they just didn't want to be involved in my ministry of evangelism.

A Pastor once told me his church wouldn't support a tent revival for me because the meeting was too far from his church and it wouldn't benefit them. In other words, if somebody got saved in the revival, their church was too far for the person to attend. Perhaps the benefit this Pastor wanted had to do with tithes and offerings

People say they love Jesus, but won't support the preaching of His Gospel. There is no way a person could be cold hearted toward the salvation and deliverance of precious souls and profess to be hungry for God at the same time.

Not only have people lost their desire to see people saved, they have lost their love for God's Word. After preaching in a meeting out west, a sister came up to me and told me their church didn't preach doctrines. They just loved Jesus! I am sure she was probably offended at me, for I sure gave them an ear full of the Apostle's Doctrine during the service.

This poor sister was totally out of touch with spiritual reality. Her church had deceived her. It is impossible to love Jesus and disregard His teaching! Christian's hunger for God has seemingly been replaced with a hunger for religion.

Jesus said, *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* [John 16:13]

Obviously the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth! Therefore if your denomination, your church, your preacher, or you believe and teach a doctrine that is not Biblically sound, the Holy Spirit didn't reveal it. The Word of God must always be our basis for Truth as the Spirit and the Word will always agree.

I realize there are many today like the dear sister I mentioned which claim they have no doctrine. They say, "We just believe in Jesus." My friends, if you believe in Jesus, you will believe His doctrine! Jesus stated very clearly that the foundation which would keep us from being destroyed was His teaching. *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."* [Matthew 7:24]

You cannot have Christ without His teaching! His *sayings* is His doctrine! Here are a few things Apostle Paul said about doctrine: *"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."* [1 Timothy 1:3]; *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."* [1 Timothy 4:16]

It should be clear! There are Bible doctrines that must be preached! But, do men have the authority to change the doctrines of Jesus and the Apostles and declare their own interpretations? Absolutely not! The books of Deuteronomy and Revelation warns we should not add to or take away from what is written.

Paul said there was only one foundation! *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [1 Corinthians 3:11]; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."* [Ephesians 2:20]

That foundation my friends is the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. The Apostle Paul warned, *"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder,*
Trumpet Messenger Page 7

I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." [1Corinthians 3:10-11]

According to Saint John Chapter one, Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God! The Word was made flesh!

The Apostle John was very bold and crystal clear about the Spirit of Truth! *"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."* [1 John 4:6] The "We" he is referring to is the Apostles!

Let me make this crystal clear: "If you are of God, you will hear what the Apostles have declared. You will believe and act upon what they have stated in the New Testament. 'If you are not of God you will not adhere to the Apostles teachings and you will follow after the teachings and traditions of men. 'If you find you have accepted a teaching contrary to what the Apostles taught, you must reject what you have been taught, and fully accept the Apostles teachings and obey them."

Do you realize that John was talking about the antichrist when he made this statement about the spirit of error? Let's look at verses one through three: *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."* [1John 4:1-3] There it is! I know you can clearly see how the spirit of antichrist which is the "spirit of error" operates.

The antichrist is a perverter of God's Word! When one compares the doctrines of our Lord and His Apostles as stated in the New Testament with the doctrines of Christianity today it is horrifying! How could this be considering the fact we all have the same Bible?

The answer is painfully clear. Most have chosen to follow the traditions and teachings of men rather than the Word of God. Many love their church, their denomination, or their minister more than they love the Truth. They are hearers of the Word not doers, and have willfully been deceived. The god of this world has blinded their minds! The abomination of false teaching abounds and only a few remain to defend the Truth.

I honestly believe deception comes when you lose your hunger and thirst for righteousness. They become complacent; not hot, nor cold, but lukewarm; and this condition sickens our Lord. (See Revelation Chapter 3).

Over the years Pastors have shunned to preach against sin and false doctrines. Their messages have become so watered down that the Truth is hardly recognized. The predominate church message heard today is developed from what someone has read in a magazine or newspaper. Their sermons come from the internet rather than the Holy Spirit. The call is not to repentance, but rather to a carnal cause: "save our environment, save the whale, etc." Their sermons are filled with jokes and innuendoes, and material prosperity rather than holy living, dedication and sacrifice.

Emotion rules the church rather than the Holy Ghost! Folks today cannot discern the difference between emotion and the anointing! They sing, they shout, they run, they dance, they scream, they laugh, they cry . . . but no holy conviction, no Word, no doctrine which is able to save their souls! What an abomination!

Fasting has been replaced with what is called a Daniel fast, which is no more than a vegetarian and fruit diet. It is an insult to the prophet Daniel! When Daniel fasted, he fasted. In his time of mourning, he ate no pleasant bread or flesh or drank wine (See Daniel 10:2-3 *this was not a fast*)! Daniel's fast and the results of his fast is seen in Daniel 9: 1-27! Check it out for yourself!

As real Christianity struggles with a loss of hunger and desire for the purposes of God, millions are turning to false doctrines and religions seeking Truth but not finding it.

I know there is a hunger for God in the world! It is shameful that Christians are not in the place spiritually to offer the only food that will satisfy a hungry soul. That my friend, is the True Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Charismatic television evangelists rarely quote the King James Version. The "bibles" they quote has no ring of Truth. Compromise is the rule rather than the exception today! Modern Christian leaders advise young ministers to never mention repentance or hell in their sermons. Just tell them Jesus loves them.

The church must be awakened before it is too late. Here is the condition of modern Christianity: *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."* [Revelation 3:15-17]

Look again at our picture of those hungry souls on that train. What do you feel when you realize their zeal and hunger for God is far greater than yours? They want to serve the True God, but have only found false hope in a false God. My friend, if you are truly born again this message should begin a renewed hunger for God in your soul. A true hunger for God will awaken the true purposes of God for you and the world. It's time to wake up!

