

Hunger For God #2

How Do We Grow In Our Hunger For God?

Introduction

- A.** How many of us would say that our desire for God has grown steadily from the first day until now?
 - Is this a guarantee?
- B.** Story of Joe
- C.** How do we guard against this?
 - How do we maintain a growing hunger for God?
- D.** 2 essentials from Ephesians prayers
 - The transforming power of wonder
 - The transforming power of His love

I. The Wonder of God

- A.** There are some things that God meant more for our wonder than our understanding.
 - We do not ponder anymore, we google search
 - We are hungry for answers, but we have largely lost our appetite for the mysteries of God
- B.** Ephesians 1st prayer: Ephesians 1:17-19 NRSV
 - Theme of prayer is that we might KNOW God
 - Without a veil - as He really is
 - Paul wants us to know 3 more things:
 1. The hope to which we were called
 2. The riches of your inheritance
 3. The power to those who believe
- C.** The context of Paul's prayer v3-14
 - In the 1st person
 - It is easier to believe for 'us' than for 'me'
 - We need to experience Him personally
 - transformation does not happen with more information, transformation happens in worship
 - Eph 1:3-11, 14
 - 1 Cor 2:9-12 NLT
- D.** Cook Island pics
- E.** ...when I in awesome wonder, consider...

II. The Love of God Eph 3:14-19 NLT

- A.** He will empower you with inner strength
 - This is how we should pray for each other

- Transformation happens from the inside out
- God ALWAYS starts here!

- B.** (so that) Christ will make His home in your heart
 - Jesus came personally!
 - to be established permanently

- C.** (so that) your roots will grow down into God's love
 - incredible picture
 - think about a fruit tree
 - fortified in His Love
 - transformation is a process

- D.** (so that) You will be made complete

- E.** How do we grow in our hunger for God?
 - Never lose your sense of awe and wonder
 - Allow His love to transform completely

III. Closing Thoughts - 3 practical suggestions

- A.** Find time with God
 - God needs one thing from us, time. Growing things need time to grow. Do you have a regular time with God to just seek Him for who He is?
 - We come to God with our petitions, come to Him instead with worship. Weigh heavy the things that God weighs heavy. In this time with God, we're asking Him to press upon our heart those things that are on heavy on His
 - Practice being in awe
- B.** Find a small group
 - Sometimes we have better intentions than execution. That's where the body comes in. We need other people. That's the way we were created. Ask the Lord to lead you to others who are interested in growing with you (Eph 4:16 NLT)
- C.** Get Involved
 - Jesus summarized the entire Law in 2 commands, Love God, and Love others
 - Paul tells us to have the same mind as Jesus, consider others more important than yourself. (Matt 22:36-40; Phil 2:1-5)
 - As we grow in Him, God will increase our appetite for Himself, and for others
 - Spend a yes on God
- D.** A prayer God WILL answer:
 - Psalm 37:4 NLT