

Do you
Hunger and Thirst
for Righteousness?

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New Year's Resolutions

■ History of Traditions

- People resolve to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or improve their life.

■ History of People & Resolutions

- Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts.
- The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named.

New Year's Resolutions

■ Resolutions Broken

- The most common reason for participants failing their New Years' Resolutions was setting themselves unrealistic goals (35%), while 33% didn't keep track of their progress and a further 23% forgot about it. About one in 10 respondents claimed they made too many resolutions.
- Indicative of Us?



Hunger & Thirst After Righteousness

■ Matthew 5:6

- Jesus gives us a goal that each of us can resolve to commit to, which is consistent with God's desire and He uses a metaphoric comparison that we can relate to and remain committed to complete.
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
- Jesus is not using "hunger" or "thirst" as we would describe the emptiness or dryness we feel between meals, but a hunger or thirst that seemingly can never be satisfied.
- "It is the hunger of the man who is starving for food, and the thirst of the man who will die unless he drinks"

Hunger & Thirst After Righteousness

■ Hunger & Thirst Imagery

- **Psalm 42:1-2**: As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
- **Psalm 63:1**: O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.



What is Righteousness?

- **“Right Doing”** - Bible's use of "righteousness" is both specific and broad—so broad that in some places it is treated as a synonym of salvation itself:
 - Psalm 119:172
 - Isaiah 45:8
 - Isaiah 46:12-13
 - Isaiah 51:5
 - Isaiah 56:1
 - Isaiah 61:10

Three Righteousness

- **The righteousness of faith that comes when God justifies a sinner by grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**
- **Results when Christ's Obedience is Imputed; We are justified**
 - **Psalm 14:1-3**
 - **Romans 3:10-18**
 - **But it is a goodness perceived through their own standards—in a mind not awakened to God's righteousness, filled with the pride of self-righteousness, deceived and blinded by the god of this world (Revelation 12:9; II Corinthians 4:3-4).**
 - **Such a mind can think that it is doing God's service (John 16:2; Titus 1:16)**

Three Righteousness

- **The righteousness of faith that comes when God justifies a sinner by grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**
- **Results when Christ's Obedience is Imputed; We are justified**
 - **Isaiah 64:6**
 - **Romans 12:1**
 - **Hunger and thirst have brought us this far, but it is only a beginning. If it is a true, Godly hunger and thirst, it remains, even though we are justified, because the justified person realizes God has only begun a good work in us (Philippians 1:6; Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 2:3).**

Three Righteousness

- The second kind of righteousness for which we are to hunger and thirst is the one that occupies the greater portion of our life after conversion. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have hungered . . . ," but rather, "Blessed are those who hunger [*do hunger*, KJV]."
- **Sanctification**
 - **Luke 14:26-28**
 - **Matthew 7:14; 24:13**
 - The journey of the ancient Israelites through the wilderness is a type of the Christian's life to the Kingdom of God. Their wilderness experiences expose a number of pitfalls that can destroy a Christian's faith and enthusiasm for continuing to the end.

Three Righteousness

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- **Sanctification**
 - How much do we want goodness, the righteousness of God?
 - Do we want it as much as a starving man desires food or a parched man wants water?
 - Do we so lack vision that we will give up our faith as all the Israelites, save Joshua and Caleb, did in the wilderness?

Three Righteousness

- **Biblical righteousness is more than a private and personal affair, something only having to do with our direct personal relationship with God.**
- **The third kind of righteousness could be called a social righteousness. It is hungering and thirsting for righteousness for the community as well as for the self.**
- **Application to Interactions**
 - **Matthew 5:16**
 - **Philippians 3:20**
 - **I Peter 2:11**
 - **II Corinthians 5:20**
 - **Proverbs 3:27-28**

Some Closing Thoughts

■ Resolutions Broken

- A study by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol involving 3,000 people showed that 88% of those who set New Year resolutions fail, despite the fact that 52% of the study's participants were confident of success at the beginning.
- Indicative of Us?



Some Closing Thoughts

■ **Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness**

- There are things we can do to enhance the initial hunger God gives to us. If we were physically hungry or thirsty, we would give every last ounce of strength we had to find food and water or die in the effort. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to make progress for God's righteousness.



Some Closing Thoughts

- **Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness**
- We must keep on making the spiritual efforts even as we did the physical, and growth will occur.
- Keep on praying for others, thanking God for His goodness and mercy, asking for wisdom, love and faith. Keep studying God's Word.
- Indicative of Us?
- **Revelation 7:13-17**

