

SPIRITUAL APPETITE

By J.J. Turner

Have you ever lost your appetite? You reached a point where you didn't have a desire for food. Medically speaking a loss of appetite may be a sign of a disease or the coming of a health problem. Have you on the other hand ever been hungry? Real hungry? What was your mental state during the bout with hunger? It has been documented that physical hunger pains can become so overwhelming that they cause persons to do everything from rob to get food to commit acts of cannibalism. Few urges are stronger than hunger.

How about spiritual hunger? A craving in the heart and soul for the word of God. How about a spiritual thirst for the "living water"? Jesus tied a blessing to spiritual hunger: "*Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*" (Matthew 5:6).

The Psalmist knew hunger and thirst: "*As the deer panteth after water brooks, so panteth my soul after you, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" (Psalm 42:1, 2).

Taste is tied to appetite as well as the scent of food. If the food is tasty it can stimulate the appetite. Spiritually speaking the Lord is the perfect appetizer as well as the main course: "*O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him*" (Psalm 34:8). The apostle Peter wrote these words relative to the eating habits of Christians: "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. If so be that you have tasted that the Lord is gracious*" (1 Peter 2:1, 2).

Satan tries to dull or kill our appetites. He knows if we ingest and digest God's word it will create strength to defeat him (cf. Ephesians 6:11-18). This is why Satan seek to get us to abuse the Lord's Supper (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:30).

How is your appetite? Do you hunger for a big healthy meal of God's word (Matthew 4:4)? Is Christ appetizing to you? We serve four weekly meals each week at this church. It's time in '09 to be at feeding time!