

Hungry for God – Christy Wimber

In preparation for our series on the Holy Spirit, Christy spoke about developing a hunger for God.

Unlike when we eat and drink and satisfy our appetites in the natural, the more we taste and eat and drink of the things of God, the hungrier and thirstier we will become.

Christy highlighted three things that the apostle Paul did that help us to become more spiritually hungry:

Paul exalted the beauty of Christ

Seeing Christ for who he really is increases our hunger for him!

Colossians 1:17-20

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

When was the last time you talked about how magnificent Christ is? People hunger for what they see as glorious. What Paul was good at was talking about the glory and beauty of Christ.

In the third century, **Antony the Great** said:

“the one thing you must do is fix your mind on Christ and desire him above all”

Paul revealed the magnificence of Christ. Things of the Spirit are revealed to us – we need revelation to really see Jesus and his beauty and glory.

Paul was once Saul – but when he encountered Christ, everything changed. Paul's whole life was turned around. There was a before and after. We need encounters with Jesus to really see and appreciate his beauty.

Seeing and encountering Jesus in all his beauty – with the help and revelation of the Holy Spirit – will increase our hunger for him and for things of God.

Paul talked about dependence on the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5 speaks of this dependence on the Spirit:

16: So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

25: Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Romans 8:14: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

We have to learn to walk/live/be led by the Holy Spirit

Paul not only talked – he prayed

We pray about the things that are important to us.

We are in trouble when we are leading our own lives without the Holy Spirit.

Paul had a life and passion for Christ

He modelled a passionate life for Jesus.

Ephesians 1:17-19

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Revelation by the Spirit creates a passion and leads to a separation in your life – where you are now and where you will be, what you will become.

This is by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation – enlightenment of the eyes of our heart.

Paul is writing from prison. And praying.

Expectation leads to experience – it is important to expect more from God.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We are called to be hungry for GOD.

This takes humility. If we already feel righteous (self-righteous) we won't recognise our need and our emptiness and we will not be filled.

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour."

He lights the flame, but it is my responsibility to keep it lit.

The fire of God brings everything to the surface that is not right.

Church once a week cannot be our only meal. We need to meet God daily and with expectancy.

Psalm 5:3

**In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.**

Don't let discouragement and disappointment rob you.

Paul is experiencing a season of suffering, but suffering can lead us along the road towards character and hope.

The revelation of Christ enables us to walk through suffering.

Ask the Lord for this passion, this hunger, that is so evident in Paul's life.

Ask the Lord to reveal himself to you in new ways.

The Holy Spirit is our teacher.

Make room for him.

Community group questions and discussion points:

1. In Colossians 1:17–20, what stands out to you most about the description of Christ's supremacy and beauty? How does seeing Jesus more clearly increase our hunger for God?
2. Christy said, "People hunger for what they see as glorious." What are some things in life that compete for our attention and affection instead of Christ?
3. Paul's life dramatically changed after encountering Jesus. Can you share a moment or season where you experienced God personally and it deepened your faith or hunger for him?
4. Read Galatians 5:16 and 5:25. What do you think it practically looks like to "live by the Spirit" and "keep in step with the Spirit" in everyday life?
5. Romans 8:14 says that the children of God are led by the Spirit. What can make it difficult for us to depend on the Holy Spirit instead of relying on ourselves?
6. In Ephesians 1:17–19, Paul prays for wisdom, revelation, and enlightened hearts. Why do you think Paul focuses so much on prayer, even while suffering in prison?
7. Christy said, "Expectation leads to experience." How does expectancy shape the way we approach prayer, worship, Bible reading, and church?
8. Read Matthew 5:6. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? How does humility help us stay spiritually hungry?
9. Romans 12:11 encourages believers to "keep your spiritual fervour." What are some practical ways we can keep the fire of our faith burning throughout the week, not just on Sundays?
10. Christy encouraged us not to let discouragement or disappointment rob us of hunger for God. How can suffering, disappointment, or waiting seasons actually deepen our dependence on Christ and the Holy Spirit?

