

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

We must remember that the section of the beatitudes are referring to true Christians. Each beatitude is built on the previous one. The one who is poor in spirit and realizes they are spiritually bankrupt will then weep and mourn over their spiritual condition and their sins. Those who are brought to contrite mourning and repentance are humble and meek to God and to His sovereign authority with meekness and humility being shown toward others. Those who are poor in spirit, mourn, and are meek are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Initial hunger and thirst for righteousness-Justification

When we truly understand that perfect righteousness is required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:48) and then realize we have no righteousness in and of ourselves as our righteousness is as filthy garment (Isaiah 64:6) we are brought to a hunger and thirsting after righteousness which can only be found in the imputed righteousness of Christ via justification by faith alone.

Hunger and thirst prior to regeneration

- Our hunger and thirst in our fallen unregenerate condition is for the temporal food and the sinful things of the world that satisfy our lusts and sinful desires.
- The appetite of the unregenerate person is vomit (2 Peter 2:22) and pig food (Luke 15:15-16)

Hunger and thirst after regeneration

- When our spiritual condition has changed we then hunger and thirst for spiritual things which only satisfy our souls.
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness can only be performed by someone who has been born again as they are now loving something they previously hated, pursuing something they were running from, and seeking something they hid from.
- This is not a hunger and thirst for self-righteousness (believers have Christ's imputed righteousness) to merit entrance into New Jerusalem, but a hunger and thirst for righteousness and holiness because we love God, want to please Him, and be like Him (John 14:15) (1 Peter 1:15-16) (1 John 2:6)
- Hunger and thirsting after righteousness is hunger and thirst for sanctification.
- This is a desire to be more conformed to the image of Christ to which the blessed ones have been predestined (Romans 8:29).
- This is a desire to rid ourselves of every sin in every aspect of life. This will not fully happen until we are free from the presence of sin in our glorification at what time we will be conformed to His image forever.
- This is a hatred for sin and an intense hatred for unrighteousness things.
- This is an intense desire for righteousness to be pursued by everyone are grieved when it is not the case.

Phil 3:3-14 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More

than that, I count all things to be loss [c]in view of the surpassing value of [d]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, [e]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and [f]the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹[g]in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on [h]so that I may lay hold of that [i]for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12: 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

1 Peter 2:2-3 like newborn babies, long for the [e]pure [f]milk of the word, so that by it you may grow [g]in respect to salvation, ³if you have tasted [h]the kindness of the Lord.

Psalm 42: 1-2 As the deer [b]pants for the water brooks, So my soul [c]pants for You, O God.
²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and [d]appear before God?

Desperation in our hunger and thirst for righteousness

How desperate, passionate, and unwavering from the mission is a person who is truly in need of food and water for survival. They are consumed with finding food and water as their life depends on it. Let us have even greater urgency and desperation when seeking righteousness.

Hunger and thirst for righteousness satisfied

Hunger and thirst after righteousness is a sign of regeneration. The blessed one that hungers and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied. Their souls on this earth will be satisfied, but at the same time year for more righteousness. However, the greatest fulfillment is this when we enter the Kingdom of God where righteousness dwells. The blessed one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness will be forever satisfied in glory with Christ who is the Bread of Life (John 6:35) and the Living Water (**John 4:7-14, John 7:37-38**)!