

“Hungry for God” vs “Desires for Other Things” (quotes taken from Desiring God by John Piper)

“Desires for other things”(the enemy) enter in and choke the Word (Mark 4:19). The only weapon is a deeper hunger for God. The weakness in our hunger is not that He is unsavory, but because we have kept ourselves stuffed with “other things”. What we hunger for most, we worship.

The birthplace of Christian fasting is homesickness for God.

God’s greatest adversaries are His gifts. The greatest adversary of love to God is not His enemies but His gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God Himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable. The “pleasures of this life” and “the desires for other things” - these are not evil in themselves, these are gifts from God. They are your basic meat and potatoes and coffee and gardening and reading and decorating and traveling and investing and TV watching and internet surfing and shopping and exercising and collecting and talking. And all of them can become deadly substitutes for God.

When you have taken your stand on the finished work of God in Christ, and begin to drink at the River of Life and eat the bread of heaven, and know that you have found the end of all your longings you only get hungrier for God. The more satisfaction you experience from God, while still in this world, the greater your desire for the next. “Our best having are wantings” (C.S.Lewis). The more deeply you walk with Christ, the hungrier you get for Christ...the more homesick you get for heaven. If you don’t feel strong desires for the manifestations of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things.

Mark 4: 18-19 “Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

Spiritual Bootcamp Questions:

1. Are you really hungry for God?
2. Are you spiritually eating everyday?
3. Are you satisfied by what you are spiritually eating?
4. Are “worries of life”, “deceitfulness of wealth”, or “desires for other things” (the world) choking out the Word in your life?
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any “deadly substitutes” (= STUFFING) in your life and then ask Him to take that hunger away and replace it with a deeper hunger for Him.

Matt 6:33 “Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”