

## “I’m Hungry!”

by Wayne Goff

**A**s a child growing up with wonderful parents, I was well fed. Mother was an excellent cook, specializing in country cooking — ham, roast beef, fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade rolls, and delicious pies of every flavor. It wasn’t too often that I went hungry. If I did, it was only because of my ravenous teenage appetite.

### “I’m Hungry!”

In **John 6**, Jesus had a multitude following Him simply because they were hungry. Now there is nothing wrong with hunger — it is the body’s way of keeping us nourished. But there **IS** something wrong with placing our stomachs on the throne of our hearts! God’s holy Word should be there instead.

So Jesus mildly rebuked the multitude when He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but **because you ate of the loaves and were filled**” (**6:26**). Oops! Jesus is not the God of the filled belly, but the God Who came to save our eternal souls! When you and I make sure that we eat three square meals a day, let’s make sure that **our spiritual appetite** is strong as well!

“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (**6:27**). All the physical food in life will sustain us for a few years at best. But the spiritual food that nourishes our souls will sustain us forever!

### “Feed Yourselves!”

“Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent’” (**6:28-29**). Jesus told the multitude that the “**work of God**” was for them to “**believe in Him**”! Dear reader, that’s the job which God has given to each one of us. We know that faith comes **by hearing** (**Romans 10:17**). So how well we hear determines how strong our faith will grow. Which brings us to the questions: (1) How is your spiritual appetite? (2) How well do you feed yourself? Some brethren are **spiritual anorexics**! A motivational verse here and there and “Whoop! I’m so full I could bust!” Other brethren are “*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (**2 Timothy 3:7**). That is, they “*resist the truth*” because they are “*men of corrupt minds*” (**2 Timothy 3:8**), refusing to make the application to themselves. They know a lot about the Bible, but they know nothing of being disciplined by it! The proper way to feed the soul is to (1) **desire** the pure milk of the Word, **1 Peter 2:2**; (2) **grow** in the Word as you read, study, meditate, **2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:15; Psalm 1:1-3**; (3) **apply it to your own life** by “*taking heed to yourself*,” **Luke 21:34; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:16**; (4) and by timely self-examination, **2 Corinthians 13:5**. (The Devil is an excellent Deceiver and we can be deceived if we do not continue to take heed!)

### Develop An Appetite

If you are a weak Bible student, then please recognize that fact and begin to take corrective measures. You will not become a mature Bible scholar overnight. But begin where you are — **find** the “*milk*” of God’s Word and **drink it!** As you grow spiritually from the milk, the time will come when you will be able to eat the more “*meaty*” things of God’s Word (**Hebrews 5:12-14**). It is a beautiful process to see your soul being nourished and strengthened in God’s Word.

“Take time to be holy” as the words of a familiar hymn say. That means turn off the TV, turn off the iPhone, turn off the Music, and in the quiet solitude of your own soul, pick up the Word of God and begin to read it. **The Gospels** tell you all you need to know about Jesus. **The Epistles** tell you all you need to know to be a strong Christian, and a faithful member of a local congregation. **The book of Acts** tells you all you need to know to be converted to the truth, or to convert your friends and neighbors. Just be sure to examine yourself and see how “hungry” you are for the Word of God.

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