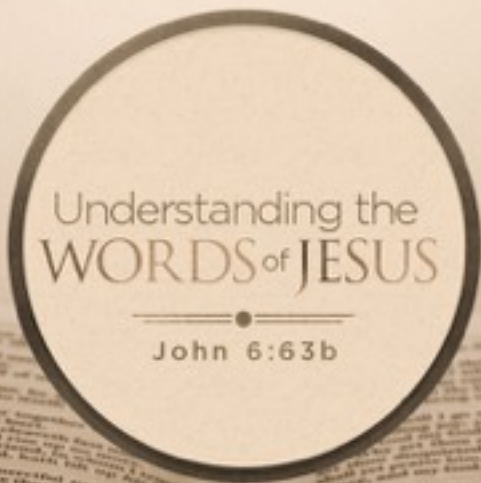


Ring 4

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Matthew 5:6



Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

This fourth *beatitude* is really a turning point in the series. The first three have been about our need for Elohim, about our desperate position in life.

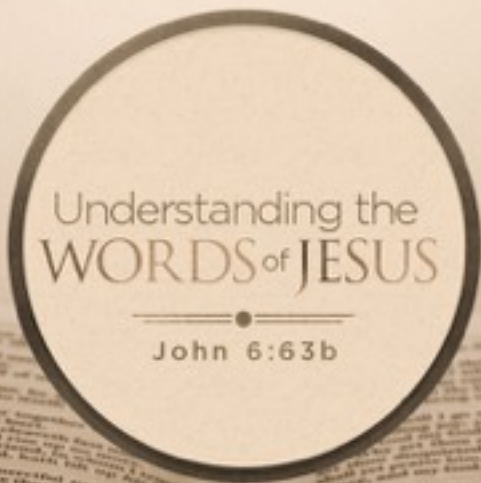
1. Blessed are the poor in spirit—

being “poor in spirit” means I know that before Yahweh, I do not have what it takes and realize I’m a poor beggar who needs Yahweh every day.



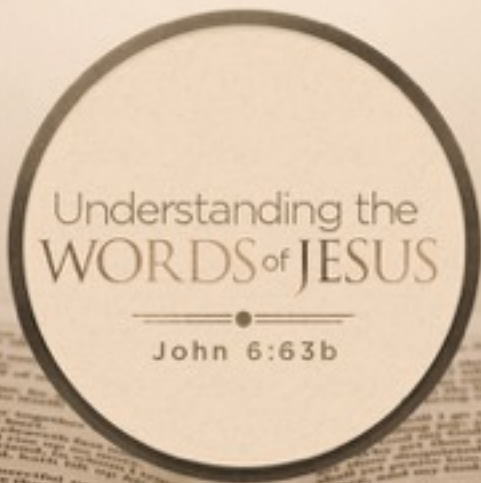
2. *Blessed are those who mourn—*

why would I mourn? Because I see that my sins are many. I must mourn over my sins, why? because they've been costly to me and to others, and most of all, they were unspeakably costly to Yahshua Messiah;



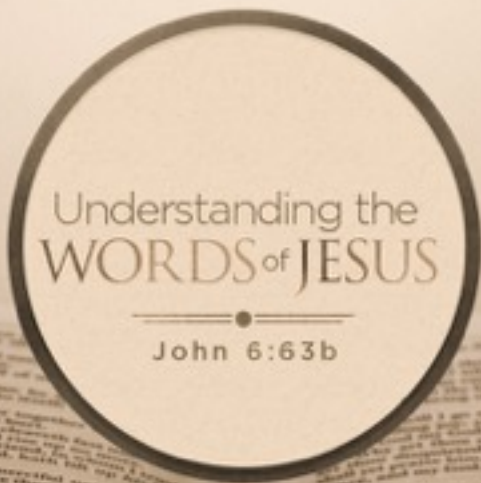
3. *Blessed are the meek—*

I grow in meekness because I see that Elohim has not treated me as my sins deserve. He has treated me with grace and kindness. As I continue getting used to the hand and staying in the yoke with Yahshua Messiah and allowing meekness to be developed in my life.



The first three beatitudes are about seeing your own position before Elohim. This fourth beatitude moves us forward. It speaks about the *desire* that arises out of the work of the Holy Spirit in the first three beatitudes.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Matthew 5:6



Hunger is more than a vague interest, it is an intense desire. A person who is really hungry will do almost anything to get food. His life depends on it.

Hunger is the strongest of motives. It produces energy and it drives decisive action. It's powerful.

Isaiah 55:1-3

1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

*...and behold
...shall be destroyed
...the salvation of the righteous is of
...their strength in the time of trouble.
...And the Lord shall help them, and deliver
...them, because they trust in him.*

3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

Jeremiah 2:1-6

1 Moreover the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith Yahweh; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land *that was not sown.*

**3 Israel was holiness unto Yahweh,
and the firstfruits of his increase: all
that devour him shall offend; evil
shall come upon them, saith
Yahweh.**

**4 Hear ye the word of Yahweh, O
house of Jacob, and all the families
of the house of Israel:**

5 Thus saith Yahweh, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

*...and he shall deliver them from the w
...because they trust in hi
...the salvation of the righteous is o
...the wicked shall be destroy
...the LORD shall help them, and de
...the LORD shall deliver them from the w
...because they trust in hi*

6 Neither said they, Where *is* Yahweh that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

7 And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

8 The priests said not, Where *is* Yahweh? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

9 Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith Yahweh, and with your children's children will I plead.

10 For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

**11 Hath a nation changed *their*
mighty ones, which *are* yet no
mighty ones? but my people have
changed their glory for *that which*
doth not profit.**

12 Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith Yahweh.

13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

This intense desire, this hunger
and thirst for Elohim, and this
passion to pursue His
righteousness is a hallmark of a
true believer. Listen to how David
put it:



Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

Psalms 42:1-3

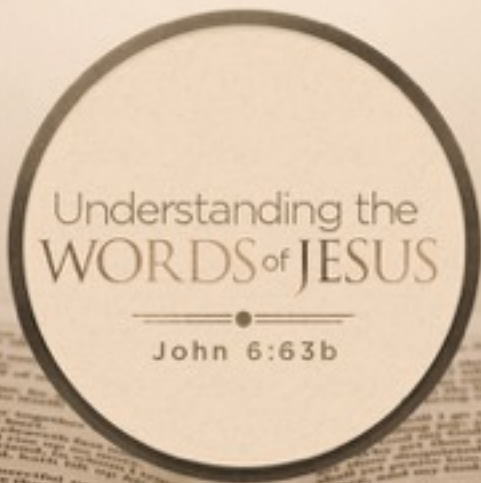
1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O Elohim.

2 My soul thirsteth for Elohim, for the living El: when shall I come and appear before Elohim?

**3 My tears have been my meat day
and night, while they continually say
unto me, Where *is* thy Elohim?**

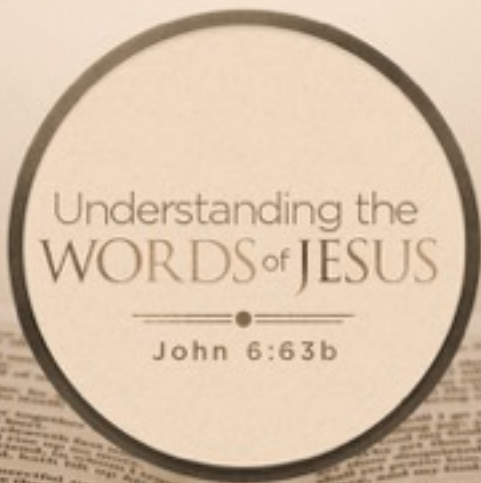
John 4:14

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.



Jeremiah 31:25

For I have satiated the weary soul,
and I have replenished every
sorrowful soul.

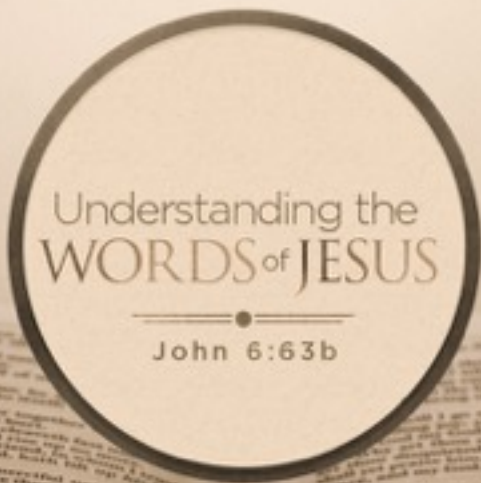


John 6:47-

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

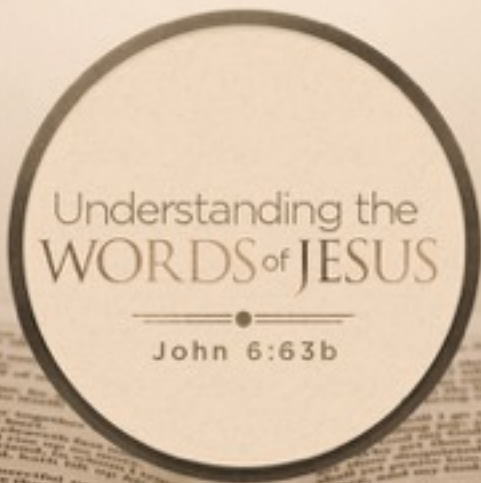
48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.



50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

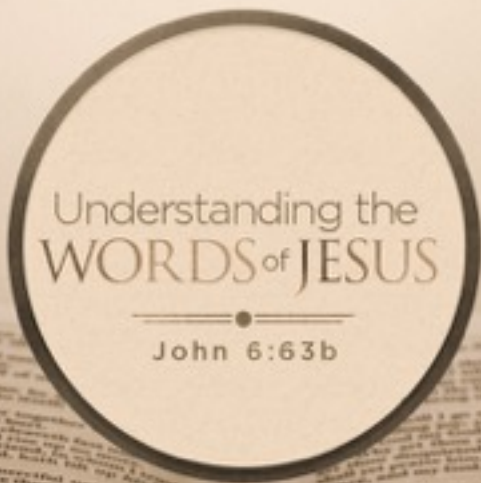
51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.



John 7:37-38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.



Psalms 63

Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

PSALM 63
A Psalm of David.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.

PSALM 63
A Psalm of David.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.

PSALM 63
A Psalm of David.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.

PSALM 63
A Psalm of David.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.

PSALM 63
A Psalm of David.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.
My soul is parched for thee, O God; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh is dry and parched, like a thirsty soil, in a dry and parched land.

**1 O Elohim, thou *art* my El; early
will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth
for thee, my flesh longeth for thee
in a dry and thirsty land, where no
water is;**

**2 To see thy power and thy glory, so
as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.**

3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips:

6 When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

**7 Because thou hast been my help,
therefore in the shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice.**

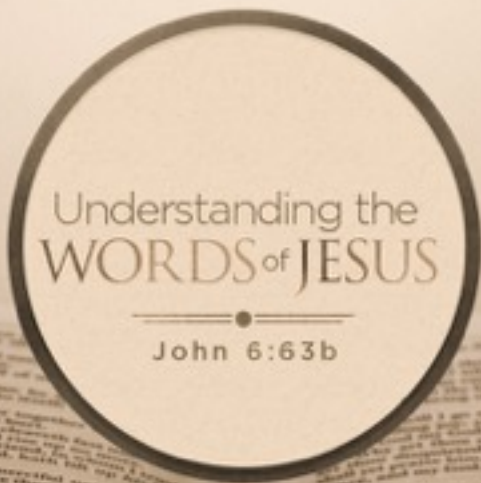
**8 My soul followeth hard after thee:
thy right hand upholdeth me.**

**9 But those *that* seek my soul, to
destroy *it*, shall go into the lower
parts of the earth.**

**10 They shall fall by the sword: they
shall be a portion for foxes.**

**11 But the king shall rejoice in
Elohim; every one that sweareth by
him shall glory: but the mouth of
them that speak lies shall be
stopped.**

Think of the apostle Paul writing in the New Testament. What is so striking to me is that he is writing towards the end of his life, after years of service in ministry:



Philippians 3

Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in Yahweh. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

**3 For we are the circumcision,
which worship Yahweh in the spirit,
and rejoice in Messiah Yahshua, and
have no confidence in the flesh.**

**4 Though I might also have
confidence in the flesh. If any other
man thinketh that he hath whereof
he might trust in the flesh, I more:**

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**7 But what things were gain to me,
those I counted loss for Messiah.**

**8 Yea doubtless, and I count all
things but loss for the excellency of
the knowledge of Messiah Yahshua
my Master: for whom I have suffered
the loss of all things, and do count
them but dung, that I may win
Messiah,**

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Messiah, the righteousness which is of Yahweh by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**11 If by any means I might attain
unto the resurrection of the dead.**

**12 Not as though I had already
attained, either were already
perfect: but I follow after, if that I
may apprehend that for which also I
am apprehended of Messiah
Yahshua.**

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of Yahweh in Messiah Yahshua.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, Elohim shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the stake of Messiah:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose mighty one is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

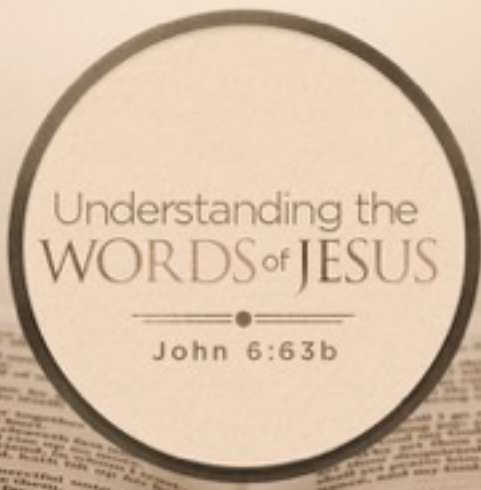
20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Master Yahshua Messiah:

**21 Who shall change our vile body,
that it may be fashioned like unto
his glorious body, according to the
working whereby he is able even to
subdue all things unto himself.**

“I want to know him,” as if he didn't
know Yahshua already!

...the wicked in great
...the great that love
...and he, the man
...but he could not be found.
...the perfect man, and behold
...the end of that man is peace,
...the transgressors shall be destroyed
...the end of the wicked shall be cut off.
...I put the salvation of the righteous is of
...is their strength in the time of trouble.
...And the LORD shall help them, and de-
...he shall deliver them from the w
...them, because they trust in hi

Three observations about hunger



Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b



1. Hunger is a sign of need

When you are hungry, your body is telling you something: It's been too long since your last meal and you need to eat.

Hunger indicates the *absence* of food in the body. It is the body's awareness of its own need.

Psalms 107:1-9

1 O give thanks unto Yahweh, for *he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

2 Let the redeemed of Yahweh say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

4 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

**5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul
fainted in them.**

**6 Then they cried unto Yahweh in
their trouble, *and* he delivered
them out of their distresses.**

**7 And he led them forth by the right
way, that they might go to a city of
habitation.**

8 Oh that *men* would praise Yahweh
for his goodness, and for his
wonderful works to the children of
men!

9 For he satisfieth the longing soul,
and filleth the hungry soul with
goodness.

Proverbs 21:21

He that followeth after
righteousness and mercy findeth
life, righteousness, and honour.

Yahshua tells us that the ones who are blessed are those who *hunger and thirst* for righteousness. In other words, the blessed ones are *not* those who think they have righteousness, but those who feel they lack righteousness.

And the Lord shall help them, because they trust in him.

righteous is cut off.

in the time of trouble.

and deliver them.

Here's what it feels like to be a Christian: You don't feel that you have arrived. You find yourself longing to be more like Messiah than you are. You say, "I wish I was further along."

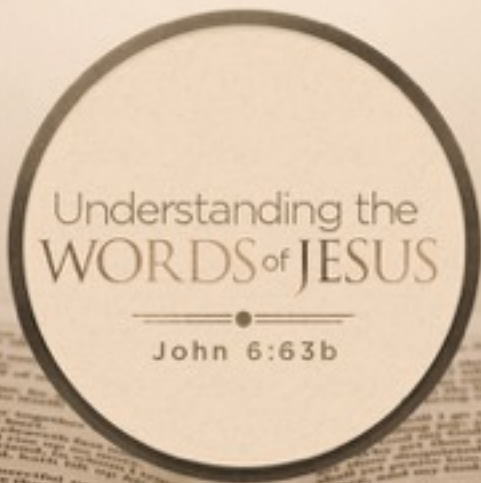
Some people are confident of their own righteousness. The Pharisees were like that, but Yahshua does not pronounce them “blessed.” The blessing does not belong to those who see themselves as paragons of virtue. The blessing is for those who see how far they have to go.

Other people are content in their sins. Yahshua does not pronounce them “blessed” either. The blessing belongs to those who are not content to remain as they are, but have a strong desire to grow in righteousness.

If that is you, Yahshua says you are “blessed.”

2. Hunger is a sign of life

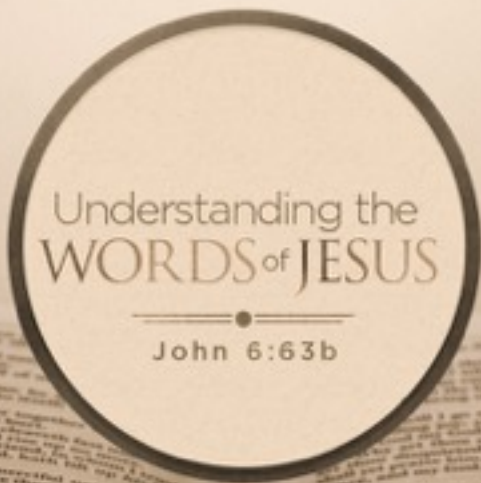
Nobody teaches a newborn baby how to be hungry. They don't need mentoring on this—where there's life, there's hunger. Spurgeon says:



To hunger after righteousness is a sign of spiritual life. Nobody who was spiritually dead ever did this... If you hunger and thirst after righteousness, you are spiritually alive...

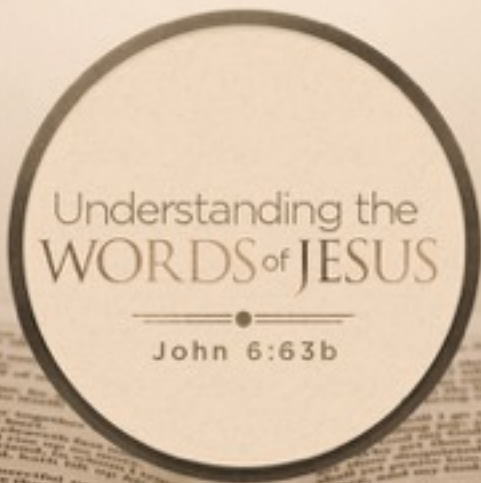
When the Spirit of Elohim has changed our nature, that new nature hungers and thirsts after righteousness. The old nature never did, never could, and never would do so.

The flesh never hungers after righteousness. It wants to go and sin. If you hunger for righteousness, thank Elohim for it.



3. Hunger is a sign of health

A healthy appetite is a good sign that a person is well. But if a person loses his appetite, it is usually a sign that something is wrong. Apply this spiritually:



**If you have a deep longing to grow in
Messiah, that's a good statement
about your spiritual health. The sign
of spiritual health is not to feel that
you've arrived, but to have a great
longing for more.**

The mark of a true Christian is that he never feels he has arrived at a righteous life. What does he do? He hungers and thirsts for righteousness.

And this hunger is a sure sign of spiritual life and health.

We want to be blessed, but Yahshua does not say that we are *righteous*, if we hunger and thirst to be *blessed*. He says we are *blessed*, if we hunger and thirst to be *righteous*. Do you see how easy it is, even for Christians, to get this the wrong way around?

2 Corinthians 5

Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of Elohim, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is Elohim, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from Yahweh:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with Yahweh.

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of Yahweh, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto Elohim; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to Elohim: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

**14 For the love of Messiah
constraineth us; because we thus
judge, that if one died for all, then
were all dead:**

**15 And that he died for all, that
they which live should not
henceforth live unto themselves,
but unto him which died for them,
and rose again.**

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Messiah after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Messiah, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of Yahweh, who hath reconciled us to himself by Yahshua Messiah, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that Yahweh was in Messiah, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Messiah, as though Yahweh did beseech you by us: we pray you in Messiah's stead, be ye reconciled to Elohim.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of Yahweh in him.

1 Peter 2:24-25

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

The purpose of the passion of Yahshua Messiah is that we should have a passion for righteousness. Messiah died to redeem a people who no longer live for themselves, but who live with a passion for holiness.

... shall be destroyed
... their strength in the time of trouble.
... And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them, because they trust in him.

Mathew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of Elohim, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Five Strategies for Cultivating a Appetite for Yahweh

Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

1. Gain momentum from the first three beatitudes

The Beatitudes are progressive. Each beatitude assumes the ones that have gone before. You can't just hunger and thirst for righteousness, you have to start from the beginning. We've pictured them like rings that are reached by the momentum you gain from swinging on the previous ones.

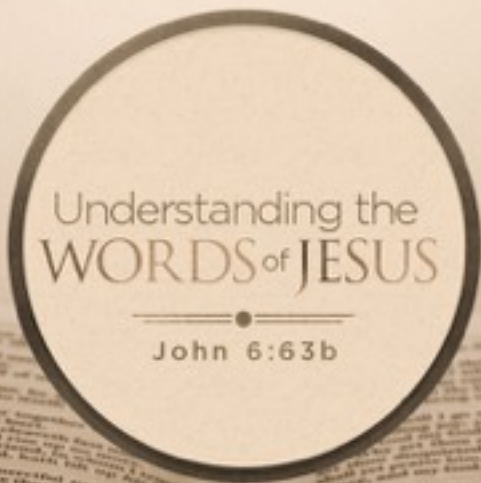
This doesn't mean you have to spend a week being poor in spirit and a month mourning over sins before you can move on. The momentum of realizing your poverty before Yahweh, seeing your own sins, and submitting yourself unconditionally to the will of Yahweh may happen all at once.

Yahweh may birth all of this in your heart with great power today. The point is simply that *if progress is to be made*, none of these elements, which we have pictured as rings, can be missing.

So, you can't start at the fourth beatitude and decide that you want to have a great hunger for holiness. But here's the encouragement: If you become poor in spirit, mourn your sins, and submit your life to the will of Elohim, you *will* find that a true hunger and thirst for righteousness springs from these roots.

2. Practice fasting from legitimate pleasures

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34



Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

Let's apply that obvious principle from the world of the body to the world of the soul: Legitimate pleasures at the wrong time and in the wrong amount will spoil your appetite for holiness.