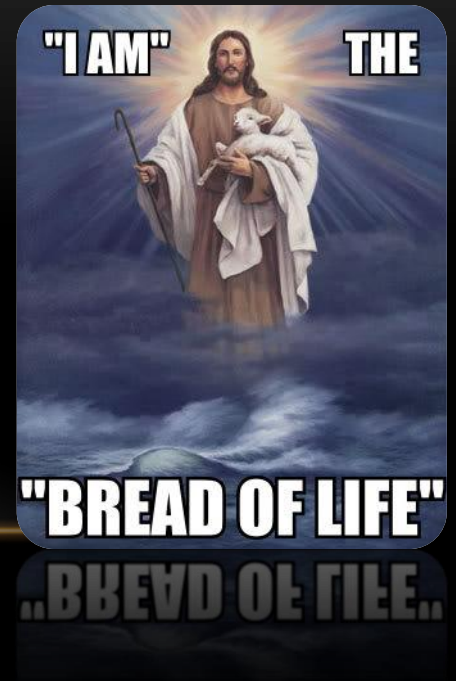


**"He who comes to Me
shall never hunger,
and he who believes in
Me
shall never thirst"**

John 6:35



WAKE UP AND SMELL THE DECEPTION



*How do Satan and the world try to keep us
hungry and thirsty forever?*

1. Endless search for worldly happiness!

- Defining happiness in acquiring something or attaining a certain status!
- Considering a temporary pleasure to be counted as “joy”!
- Defining a career, a marriage, a place to live in as an end where happiness starts and lasts ‘ever after’!



2. Portraying God as a provider of the perceived happiness

- God is perceived as a means to something better not as an Ultimate End to our search for happiness!
- When we do not receive what we ask for: “Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?”



Job 21:15

3. Promising freedom while enslaving us

- Those who entice us to enjoy their false freedom are themselves slaves: “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption”

2 Peter 2:19

- While trying this liberty, we are shackled by chains of dependence and addiction.



4. Instilling doubts in our hearts that we can achieve anything with God

- The lack of patience and endurance, the inexperience and refusal of counsel, combined with lack of sincerity and seriousness lead to our despair along the way of God.
- “It is useless to serve God; what profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the Lord of Hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and go free.”

Malachi 3:14-15



5. Teach us a worldly wisdom that fails always at the end

- “But if you have bitter envy and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and **self-seeking** exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” *James 3: 14 -16*
- This kind of wisdom is the reason behind our disappointing relationships in and outside the family.



How does God satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst? ⁽¹⁾

1. He gives us the true freedom that is from within:
 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” *John 8:32*
 - The freedom of St. Paul while in prison
2. He bless us with His peace that comes from His presence:
 - The oneness of heart, the love of others and the service of reconciliation.



How does God satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst? (2)

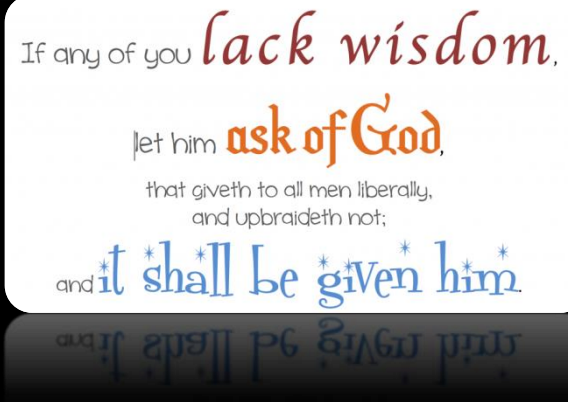
3. He gives heavenly wisdom to those who seek Him:

- "For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting"

Ecclesiastes 2:26

- "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy"

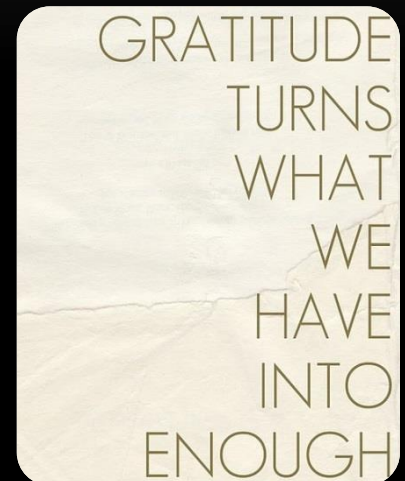
James 3:17



How does God satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst? ⁽³⁾

4. He makes those who love Him content and lacking nothing:

- When God is the Ultimate End, nothing will either add or subtract from our joy.
- By then, we do not put our hope in anyone or anything
- Even what seems like a loss would not trouble us
- His unceasing love, support and forgiveness make Him our unmatched Friend and Father



How does God satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst? ⁽⁴⁾

5. He does not spare us the sufferings, but makes them bear fruits for us:
- "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" **James 1:2**
 - "for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin" **1 Peter 4:1**
 - "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." **Acts 14:22**

