

RELEASING^{THE} DOUBLE PORTION BLESSING

THE REWARDS OF SPIRITUAL HUNGER



GARY HARGRAVE



IF YOU WANT TO SEE GOD MOVE IN YOUR LIFE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU DEVELOP A SPIRITUAL HUNGER FOR HIM.

You will never have an experience with God without being spiritually hungry. It is our hunger that causes us to draw near to God, which in turn causes Him to draw near to us (James 4:8).

When you study the history of the outpourings of God, you find that they have always been the result of people with an insatiable desire for more of Him. His blessing and anointing does not happen by chance; it is the result of spiritual hunger.

Spiritual hunger is one of the most foundational aspects in your relationship with the Lord. Christ guarantees that if we will hunger for Him, we will be satisfied. He spoke of this principle in the Sermon on the Mount:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

MATTHEW 5:6 (NASB)

Only God is righteous. When we hunger after righteousness, we are hungering after God (Jeremiah 23:6; Psalm 71:19). It is through this spiritual hunger that we receive the **double portion blessing** that God desires for each of us.

I trust this resource will help you as you seek to experience the full and abundant anointing of God upon your life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Hargrave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'G'.



OUR EXPERIENCE OF HUNGER

When God delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, one of the first things they experienced was hunger and thirst (Exodus 15:22). This was no accident—it was by God’s design. He led them into a situation where they would be hungry and thirsty. Why? So that in their yearning they would cry out to Him.

God could supply anything they needed, but the real question was whether they would, in faith, focus their desire on Him.

This was their first meeting with the Lord as a free people. He had led them into a situation in which He was their only hope and their only way out. They were in the wilderness, with no food or water, and they could not go back to Egypt. To the natural mind, these physical circumstances seemed impossible to overcome. But all things are possible with God (Mark 10:27).

Christ had an experience similar to that of the children of Israel, following His baptism. God drove Him into the wilderness, where He had nothing to eat. After 40 days, when He was consumed with hunger, the devil came to tempt Him. God allowed His own Son to face the same situation the children of Israel had faced. However, Jesus refused to allow His hunger to be satiated by Satan’s illusions of satisfaction. Instead, in His yearning, He acknowledged the Father as His provision (Matthew 4:1-4).

Hunger was the first thing God taught the children of Israel after their deliverance, and it was the first thing that Christ experienced after His baptism. Following our salvation, hunger is also the first thing we must experience in our relationship with God.

God brings each of us to the place of spiritual hunger. We can murmur and complain against Him like the children of Israel—or we can hunger and thirst after God and His abundant provision for us.



OUR RESPONSE TO HUNGER

How do you describe hunger to someone? It is a primal feeling that comes from your gut, but it is difficult to put into words. Spiritual hunger is even harder to describe. You may not be able to express your hunger in words, but you can express it in your actions.

If someone is hungry to achieve something, they will do whatever is necessary to satisfy that hunger. For example, if someone yearns to be a good piano player, they will practice for hours every day. This same thing is true on a spiritual level. If you hunger for God, your actions will express it.

What you do from hunger is an act of intercession to see the Lord manifest Himself. If you truly want a meeting with the Lord, then magnify and express your spiritual hunger. Let your hunger drive you. Turn your spiritual hunger loose!

We must make sure that everything we do is the result of this spiritual hunger. Whether we are laboring at work, learning at school, or worshiping in church, the thing that gives our actions meaning is our yearning for more of the Lord.

All churches have various activities for their members, but there is little point to these activities if there is no spiritual hunger. The day members no longer hunger after the Lord is the day these activities should stop. But as long as what we do is an expression of spiritual hunger, then it has the potential to bear fruit.



OUR NEED FOR HUNGER

I believe the most important thing that we, as the body of Christ, can offer our generation is our spiritual hunger for Him—so that by our hunger we would initiate the manifestation of the provision of the promises of God on earth. No generation has ever needed an outpouring of God’s presence the way this generation does.

If we look behind God’s moving in every generation, we will find a people who somehow triggered that event by their indescribable hunger after Him. There has always been people in prayer and intercession surrounding miraculous manifestations of God.

What is prayer and intercession? It is a way that we express our spiritual hunger. I wonder who will make that happen for our generation? Who will be hungry enough to initiate God’s next unveiling?

From the late 1800s through the early 1900s, the world experienced tremendous outpourings of the Spirit and presence of the Lord. These events are now identified by such names as the Welsh Revival, Azusa Street and the Latter Rain.

The men and women who experienced these events interpreted them to be the fulfillment of the double portion outpouring of God that was prophesied by Joel —*“for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month”* (Joel 2:23 KJV).

Joel’s prophecy is related to the agricultural cycle of the rains which accompany the seasons in Israel. Every year there was a former and latter rain, but this prophecy tells us that there will be cycles of **double portion blessing**, when the former and latter rain fall in the same month.

If we apply this prophecy to the amazing movings of God that have come in the past, we must recognize that those events were not a one-time fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy—but rather a fulfillment of a **double portion blessing** to *that* generation.

In our understanding of Joel's prophecy, we must not miss the ongoing cycles of the outpouring of God's presence upon the earth. The outpourings of the past were the result of spiritual hunger expressed in intercession and prayer. Therefore, we must recognize that we will not see the cycle of the **double portion blessing** continue without an all-consuming desire to see the greater works ourselves (John 14:12).

In these days of restoration, the promise given in this prophecy should stimulate in us a great sense of spiritual hunger, for it is our hunger that will create the latter rain in this generation.

We must break out of the human tendency to look to the past and glorify what God did yesterday. Instead, we must believe that all that has preceded is merely a trickle compared to what God has promised for us. But who among us has the spiritual hunger to see the double portion fall on us today?





OUR LACK OF HUNGER

Mothers always tell their children not to eat before dinner because it will spoil their appetites. If we are not careful, we can also spoil our spiritual appetites. Maintaining our spiritual hunger should be of great concern.

When our hunger for the Lord is spoiled by indulging in other things, we will no longer hunger after the Lord because “the things of the world” have extinguished our spiritual hunger (1 John 2:15). Many things can do this—money, pride, lust, music, hobbies, careers. It could be anything the world has to offer, whether it seems positive, negative or benign.

The world is not inherently evil. Where the danger lies is if our hunger for worldly things has replaced our spiritual hunger to the point that we stop seeking Him. When we get so involved with the things of the world that it no longer bothers us that the promises of God are not being fulfilled in our life, our spiritual hunger has been spoiled.

A person’s hunger will guide their actions. This is one of the reasons why we should not try to discipline the flesh with rules and regulations—if we are hungry after God, we won’t have to work hard at “being good.” If we focus our hunger on the Lord, we will stop indulging in other things that take away our appetite for Him.

One way that spiritual hunger is absolutely different from natural hunger is that we always want to stay spiritually hungry. Physically we want to satisfy our hunger. This is natural, by God’s design. But, spiritually, we want to cultivate a continuous desire for more of the Lord. Get rid of every distraction. Eliminate anything that satisfies your hunger.

*O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

PSALM 63:1 (NASB)

Have you lost your hunger for God? Search your heart to see if you are feeling satisfied. Do not become passive and refuse to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

The Scriptures tell us of the men and women who served God in their generation. God has manifested Himself on the earth in years gone by, but it cannot be enough for us to know that He appeared thousands of years ago, or even just a few months ago. We must have a drive—a desire—a spiritual hunger—to see God manifest His anointing in us today.





OUR REWARD FOR HUNGER

The Scriptures tell us that God “is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6, KJV). Hunger drives us to diligently seek Him—and He will satisfy our spiritual hunger. The world holds no provision to satisfy our spiritual hunger. Nothing else can refresh us when we hunger after God.

*As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?*

PSALM 42:1-2 (NASB)

Whatever your level of spiritual hunger is right now, ask the Lord to multiply it today. Your hunger can trigger a **double portion blessing** in every area of your relationship with the Lord—why not ask Him for a double portion of hunger?

Make this your prayer:

“Restore Your Church, Father God. Let there be in the Body of Christ a yearning to see Your presence infused into this earth like water to the desert. Just as Jesus was hungry for You, let us be hungry for You. Spark the fire of Your hunger in our lives so that everything we do becomes a cry from the depths of our beings to see the Lordship of Jesus Christ manifest in the earth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor** and break the cycle of poverty in Israel
- **Support the orphans and widows** of fallen Israeli soldiers
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges** between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews** around the world return to Israel and start new lives
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

