When Adam chose to disobey God, he forfeited his dominion over the earth to the devil and threw us all under the speeding bus of eternal & temporal condemnation. The world of mankind as dominated by the devil is full of adversity and difficulty. Lucifer uses pain and misery to drive & control people in contrast to God who uses love and freedom to draw us to Him (Jn 12:32). From the day we are born into this world we are faced with constant & never ending adversity. We are helpless to even feed ourselves & w/out the help of others whom God has given to us by grace, we will die within days. We can’t give ourselves a sense of worth because initially, self-worth only comes from the value others assign to you. Even in Christ we are given His +R by grace that makes us worthy of His love, not by anything we bring to the table. Without Christ we will die & end up in the Lake of Fire. Human beings are designed to be helpless & desperately needy for God.

The depth & intensity of legitimate human need/desire is often hidden to us, generally speaking. The devil knows that we are driven by our need for affection, acceptance, accomplishment & approval. He also knows that as we develop out of childhood that we invariably will choose to attach our needs/desires to some objects (people & situations) that we believe will fulfill us. Long ago the forces of evil developed an attractive system of lies (kosmic system) that promise +H & fulfillment through people & human accomplishment, totally apart from God. Every human being falls into this trap by believing in the illusion of +H without God. Because we are born separated from God, the kosmic system is the only option available to us. Paul called the beliefs that we construct out of this system the **Old Man** (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9).

But God doesn’t abandon us in this demonic trap. He provided a way of eternal salvation and once we are saved He provides a means of escaping the misery caused by living out our lies. He gives us access to His own ideas so that we can learn & them implement them in our lives – true, permanent fulfillment and +H. Finding our way out of the confusion created by our kosmic ideas begins with understand where are motives originate and how we choose to attach them to objects that we believe will make us happy.

Jesus speaks to the hunger & thirst (need/desire) that are produced by an empty place (***koilos***) inside of man’s inner most being (Jn 7:37-39). We attach our hunger/thirst to any object in our life for fulfillment by also attaching our faith to it, believing that the object has the ability to meet our need & satisfy our longings.

***John 7:37*** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

1. If anyone is thirsty comes out of the context of Jn 6, the feeding of the 5,000 & especially 6:51-58 where Jesus proclaimed that they must eat His flesh & drink His blood to be connected to Him.

* If + Pres Act Subj – maybe you thirst, maybe you don’t: are you thirsty for +R & to live in truth/reality?

1. Shouldn’t everyone have spiritual thirst? Is your thirst suppressed behind numbness & defense mech.?
2. A lifetime of trusting/expecting earthly life to satisfy you creates layer after layer of disappointment` that we instinctively numb out & stuff into the subconscious so that we don’t feel it.
3. Do your loved ones have numb souls so that they don’t feel the longings, cravings & desires for God?
4. Hunger & thirst were the Lord’s favorite words to indicate man’s needs/desires that drive us to find fulfillment - your needs feel like desires.

* Context: eating His flesh & drinking His blood + living water Jer 17:13, Jn 4:11

1. Come to Me & drink – accept the invitation & **believe** in Me as your Messiah, your spiritual savior.

***John 6:63*** *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life –* it is only when we believe His words & ideas do they fulfill our thirsty souls

1. He who believes in me – we attach our hunger/thirst to an object for fulfillment by faith
2. There are no good desires & bad desires – desire is neutral and indicates there is an unmet need
3. Needs/desires become good or bad based on the who/what to which you attach them
4. Jesus is calling on them, inviting them to use their faith to make Him the object to fulfill their needs
5. Innermost being – ***koilos:*** empty place, a cavity – Mt 12:40 belly of the whale; 15:17 human stomach; 19:12 mother’s womb; Rom 16:18, Phil 3:19 appetites, desires
6. God designed an empty place within the soul of every person that is the source of our needs, desires and appetites – needs/desires are normal and good by God’s design.
7. Just as the body grows hungry/thirsty so that we put food/drink into the empty belly, so our empty souls hunger/thirst for spiritual food/drink – swallowing = believing - the Eucharist
8. The issue is always to whom or what do we attach ourselves to fill the emptiness
9. Living water – Jer 17:13 The Lord is the fountain of living water; Jn 4:10-11 Jesus offer living water to the woman at the well; Jn 7:39 living water from the ministry GHS; Eph 5:26 washing (experiential sanctification) by the water of the word.
10. Bible uses metaphors to describe our spiritual needs/desires and God’s provisions to meet them.

**Jn 6:51-58** His body (His person) our spiritual food & His blood (sacrifice & reconciliation) our spiritual drink.

**2Tim 3:16** – all scripture is God breathed – His word is the spiritual air that we breathe – inhale/exhale

1. Flow – used to describe the overflow of God’s love & truth from your over filled heart

* Can’t shortcut transformation & development of capacity to allow God’s love to flow from you by trying to simulate His love through human effort means – in-credible = not credible

1. The Spirit – GHS & His ministry belongs in the empty place in our hearts – nothing else will work
2. We always begin by attaching to people to fulfill the longings of our heart

* True blessings: Mother, father, siblings, peers, mate, children, grandchildren

1. We build our entire OM belief system from the foundational belief that other humans can meet our needs and will do so if we can somehow arrange the relationship properly.

* Conditional Love (CL) – Manipulation: we seek to change self & the other(s) so that they will express love to us the way that we can best receive it – they can’t and wouldn’t work even if they could

1. The God shaped hole in the heart of man is made to fit only God, but even when we have Him in there, we have Him competing with all the other idols & counterfeit gods we put in there first.
2. Even when we know that our actual eternal situation is as good as it could possibly be, we find that we are less than content and often still very confused, disturbed & miserable.

* Eternally saved, secure in Christ, sharing all Christ is/has, bible & P-T = access to the truth; access in prayer, indwelt by GHS, spiritual gift to contribute………. Remain focused on our human agenda

The soul, using our brain, forms patters of habitual, thinking that become entrenched (Rom 6 - enslaved) & form automatic responses/reactions that continue to operate long after they lose any usefulness and even after we have decided to believe something that opposes the original idea. We don’t realize that our initial hunger/thirst attachments remain intact as our first choice for fulfillment even after those people are dead or departed. In addition, the negative beliefs/feelings & defense mechanisms that resulted from the failures experienced in those relationships also remain intact as habits of thought. The hurt & negativity gets stuck in us, hindering & blocking the work of GHS in us and through us.

1. **Are you aware that you feel a longing, a craving & a hunger in the deepest, innermost part of your self?**
2. Was there a time in your life when you told yourself that it was too dangerous to want or love anything because every time that you do, it ends up causing disappointed & hurt?
3. Is your hunger for love & approval buried under many layers of numbness & denial because allowing yourself to feel your needs/desires also causes you to feel the soul anguish from your life?

* If we open ourselves to hope again to love, we remember the pain and fear it all over again

1. Are your emotions numb
2. **As you begin to regain awareness of your desire, ask yourself: what is it that I want?**
3. I heard God asking me over and over: “What do you want?”
4. To who/what in this earthly existence have you attached your needs/desires, believing that the person or situation will fulfill you, praying/expecting that I will give it to you & that it will actually satisfy you?
5. Who/what have you turned into an idol, a counterfeit god that you were pursuing until it betrayed you & let you down so that now you remain attached to it, but no longer believe that you can make it work
6. We attach to legit things (human intimacy, marriage, family, success, prosperity), turning them into idols when we seek them apart from being surrendered to God’s will.
7. Even these wonderful & important blessings do not work as idols and the objects of our pursuit of +H

**Exercise**: Close your eyes and take a deep breath and blow it all out. Take another one and blow it all out as you visualize all your troubles and stress blowing out with your breath. If you still feel anxious or stressed then take another deep breath and blow it all out.

Remember back when you were young, as a teenager. Remember how hopeful you were about life giving you what you wanted so that you could be happy. Do you recall the feeling of longing, wanting & desiring? It is normal to feel incomplete when you are young & still alone in life, hungry for relationship & intimacy.

Can you remember how it felt to really want someone to love? Want to accomplish to use your talents so that others could see how smart you were?

What happened to that wanting & desiring? Did you attach your hunger & thirst to relationships and situations that let you down, causing you to feel worthless & ashamed or disappointed & angry with feelings of betrayal?

Imaging multiple layer of wet blankets smothering the light of your core desires, to protect you from attaching them to another dangerous person or situation.

Reach up under the blankets and pull your desires out from under there and see the pulsing light of your hunger and thirst. It’s your heart. Take your hungry, pulsing heart in both hands and offer it to God. See Him open His arms and embrace you. You, with your needy, hungry heart in your hands are absorbed into the light & warmth of the Lord where your heart feels totally safe and peaceful. It is safe to give your heart to the Lord. He will never disappoint you as long as your heart is guided by His word.