

How do you Satisfy your Hunger and your Thirst?



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Unfulfilled Desires

Everyone has deep desires whether he is conscious of them or not. For example we'd like to be loved, secured and acknowledged. Or we long for a meaningful and fulfilled life. Christians as well have desires unless they suppress them through their religious beliefs. For sure there are enough offers also in the Christian circles which promise to fulfil the basic human needs. Unfortunately through these offers, man's enemy, Satan camouflaged himself in this area. Smartly disguising, the "*Angel of Light*", the archenemy of Jesus Christ constantly offers through new "spiritual" movements subtle methods in fulfilling man's deep spiritual hunger and thirst. However, a spiritually revived believer will discover distressfully that this is nothing else than a fulfilment of the end-time prophecies of Jesus. Obviously Satan misuses the basic needs of man to mislead man to tread on absolutely wrong paths with devastating aftermaths for eternity. Modern religious movements are influenced by these offers or even defiled.

The LORD led me through His Spirit to find out through His word how man, respectively a Christian can satisfy his deepest "hunger and thirst". From the Word of God there are only two ways: the first one leads to a **complete union** with our LORD **Jesus Christ** and the second one leads to complete **destruction**. For this reason, one should consider carefully where you basically satisfy your deepest desires, because the resulting consequences are far reaching. The satanic deception and the only correct answer are alarmingly close to each other.

The First Deception

Satan wants to deceive man in order to keep him from being saved. But how will he do this? The first deception story on man in the Word of God teaches us a significant lesson. God the Almighty in His great love with best intentions created man as His counterpart. But man let himself be quickly trapped by the enemy and how he let it happen is meaningful. The methods used by the enemy give us important clues to our questions. In **Gen.3:1 ff.** Eve lets herself be caught in a dialogue with Satan. His treacherous arguments convinced her till she gave in. Verse 6: *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

.When studying this scene on deception, one will quickly see how it happened. Remarkably, only the functions of the **soul** and the **emotions** were concerned. She **saw** that the tree was **good** for food and it was **pleasant** to the **eyes** –both are impressions of the emotions and the soul. Besides the fruit ought **to make one wise**, an aspect which involves the intellect, which is part of the functions of the soul. In summary, the deception proceeds through the impulses of the feelings, intellect, the soul and body, which are typically human functions.

If it were just an isolated situation, my statements would have been biased. But we can find in three chapters further a typical explanation. Again man falls to sin! In **Genesis 6:1-2**, it says: *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the*

sons of God **saw** the daughters of men, that they were **beautiful**; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. The deadly results are surely on the way. Verse 5: *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Clearly the sons of God were caught by the passions of their **soul** (emotional or physical). Nothing has changed till this day!

The attempted Deception of Jesus

After Satan successfully tempted the first man, he also did it with the “last man”, Jesus Christ. His strategies didn’t change at all. His points of attack were again the same. **Matt.4:8-10**: *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.* Again he uses the same strategy. He tempted Him through the **eyes** (*..he showed Him*) and through **material possessions** (*all these I will give you, if...*) Yet, Jesus Christ the last man did not let Himself be deceived.

The point of attack is always directed to the (fallen) **human soul** and its functions. It’s getting clear that the enemy uses the basic needs of man’s soul like emotional desires, lusts and drives. However, man does not get from him the great luck but just a short-lived satisfaction. Eventually man will be under the influence of a satanic **spirit of the Anti-Christ**. Since we’re now in the *last days* these assertions are quite important. The enemy increasingly attempts to bring the believer under the influence of the Anti-Christ spirit to make them compliant victims of the Anti-Christ kingdom. These signs can be easily recognized in various “Christian” movements through the contents of their messages.

Shortly let’s go back to the temptation of Jesus. The LORD Jesus didn’t give in to the enemy’s attack, rather He responded rightly. He didn’t discuss with the devil but immediately confronted him with **God’s Word**, in fact with the **Spirit**. The LORD Jesus did not enter into soulish arguments, but directly opposed the enemy through the **Word of God** by whose example we can follow. Our only sure foundation is the **complete Word of God**. This doesn’t mean a book of say one kilogram of bound paper printed with letters. The Word of God is **Jesus Christ** Himself and reflects His sublime personality and divine nature. In no way can the Word of God be separated from Jesus Christ. A “gospel” which compromises with the Word of God, will never represent the true gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a satanic false doctrine and a fatal illusion. Jesus Christ and the Word of God are always identical. This is also a great protection for any sincere spiritual Christian.

The Biblical View of Man

From the Word of God, man consists of three parts: the **body** as the visible part which eventually decays. It is the shell of the human **soul**. The soul represents the nature and the personality of man: intellect, opinions, emotions,

desires etc. Originally at the creation, man had the third part, the spirit. In simple terms the human spirit represents in modern language the interface to his Maker. Since man decided to be independent from God and obeyed the devil, this brought devastating effects in all aspects. His spirit died, he lost his intimacy with God and was separated from Him. Since the creation till today, and because man is God's creation, more than 6 Billion people are longing for a "higher being". Man is bombarded with an infinite range of answers in forms of religion, philosophies etc. These do not satisfy correctly the innermost desires of man, but are **satanic errors**.

Like the soul the spirit as well expresses **hunger** and **thirst**. How does the soul manifest its hunger and thirst? One desires to be loved, feel secure and to be happy. One desires to have a family, to be acknowledged and successful. These are natural, basic human desires and are acceptable.

The **spirit** of man as well has hunger and thirst. However, as we shall see later in the case studies, the hunger and thirst of our spirit can only be fully fulfilled by the complete **Indwelling** of **Jesus Christ** in our lives. This is God's eternal purpose to bring man back to his original position where he fell from: back to **Paradise** or into fellowship with his God. In spite of thousands of opportunities (for example the whole entertainment industry and various electronic games), that are made available there's only **one single** person who can fulfil man's inner hunger and thirst at the spirit, that is **Jesus Christ**. The fascinating fact is: once you are fulfilled in Christ you will never have "hunger and thirst" again!

.Little babies are fed several times a day. After their needs are satiated for some hours or so they express their needs again. The needs of the body and soul manifest similarly. They can be satisfied temporarily which lasts for some hours or days but after a certain time the hunger for it manifests itself again. An example is the hunger and thirst for **love**. It will always come up again because from a human standpoint it cannot be satisfied at all. It will become clear by a case study hereafter.

The Search to Fulfil our Needs

Since everyone has a deep hunger and thirst, he constantly looks for ways to satisfy it. In this world there's only **one** person who can satisfy man's deepest hunger and thirst. If any man is rightly connected with this person, he will not anymore experience hunger and thirst - an amazing fact. Unfortunately, there are very few people only who can come into this relationship as foreseen by God. The big majority of so-called Christians are **deceived**. The hunger and thirst of their souls are superficially satisfied only, not by Christ, but eventually by Satan.

The deep hunger and thirst of man's spirit is satisfied only by **Jesus Christ** once and for all. The Word of God defines this fact simply and exclusively in **1 John 5:12**, which says: "*He who has the Son has life.*" Jesus' promises are hard to believe from a human viewpoint. Whoever truly believes in Him will among other things thirst no more. Likewise whoever comes to Him will hunger no more (John 6:35). What a provoking declaration! Many years ago, as

I read this fact for the first time as a new believer. I was fascinated and believed I made the great discovery. Or was this a pure lie? This absolute statement did not allow for any other option. There was someone to all who offered to satisfy completely all of our basic human needs. Should this be real, this would then be the answer to all of man's inner needs or deficits – so **yours** as well!

However for most people and Christians alike, things look quite differently in reality. They are rather **deceived** all the time in the search for satisfying their hunger and thirst. The (Christian) society offers numerous ways to satiate man's hunger and thirst which, however are short-lived. Here is the point where the enemy acts in his **deceptive strategy** as an "*Angel of Light*". The hungry and thirsty Christians are deceived through antichrist-like teachings and movements. The enemy basically attacks via the **soul level** of man which is very important for you to know! The reason for that is that he is unable to get access through the spirit because this way is solely reserved for **Jesus Christ**. While the LORD Jesus Christ will reveal Himself in the spirit of man, the enemy taps on the needs of the soul. We can only reach a point of complete satisfaction of our hunger and thirst through a **total union** in our spirit **with our LORD Jesus Christ**.

First Case Study: The Samaritan Woman at the Well

Probably the most beautiful illustration on our topic is found in the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. The way Jesus approached her is simply brilliant - a real treasure for every counsellor and evangelist! This story can be found in **John 4:1-42**. For a better understanding, one has to know the customs in the Middle East. Normally at this time of the day when the sun is at its hottest, nobody goes to the well to fetch water. Jesus on his journey was tired, sat by the well and asked the woman to give him a drink. The Samaritans were usually considered by the Jews as second class people, so that the woman was quite surprised that Jesus even talked to her. The fact that the woman came to the well at noon time was exceptional because in this region women come to the well to fetch water in the morning or evening only, but certainly not at noon. Consequently, something had to be wrong with this woman. The dialogue makes it immediately very clear: This woman had innermost soulish problems and needs, i.e. a strong emotional desire – precisely a hunger and thirst for **love**. The woman looks frustrated; her behaviour points out to a possible depression. Quite obviously, she so far went to the wrong address to satisfy her needs, namely as usual by the demands of the soul. It is exactly at this point where Jesus intervenes in asking: *Go, call your husband, and come here.* (v.16)! The woman answers promptly: *"I have no husband."* Jesus said to her, *"You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."*

Jesus unfolds through this discourse the underlying problem. The woman has a deep longing for security and love, which is common to the soul and a normal human need. How does she gratify her needs? It is by relating to men as usually done by women. The subject is nowadays a top issue in our society. Jesus brings her out from the illusion by simply saying: "If you try to satisfy yourself in this way, your inner need will never be met."

Let us read now **John 4:10**: *Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* And further the verses **13-14**: *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

Jesus presents here two possibilities to satisfy your need: the way through the soul or the way through the spirit. He told the woman: "You try to satisfy your emotional desires with men, that's why you are in great trouble. In this way, you'll never reach your goal, since man can never satiate his hunger and thirst. It is only fulfilled when I dwell in you and I will be **your life**. A very impressive statement! This woman just did what million others do as well. She believed that men can fulfil her hunger and thirst for love and security which are self-destructive ways.

Jesus Christ – the Fulfilment of all Needs

This topic has become a burning issue at present. The emphasis in our actual generation with its changing ethics to seek salvation lies apparently in the domain of human relations– more and more even homosexual relationships. Happiness seems to be dependent in having the right partner. At the meantime the divorce rate in Switzerland reaches to 40%. To fulfil the deep desires of the soul through relationship seems to be the **wrong answer**. It often brings misery on the partners and on the children (if there are). The author behind it is quite easy to identify. Thus Jesus was absolutely right in his assertion. Whoever tries to fulfil his deep hunger and thirst through human relationship will be completely disappointed. Many are slipping into some sort of addiction. Thus the enemy deceives people even through their justified basic needs and leads them to **destruction**.

Jesus Christ's offer is quite different. Whoever has Jesus Christ as his life, receives in Himself a living *fountain of water springing up into everlasting life* This means, if Jesus Christ is your Master and your life, you don't demand anything anymore, rather **you** can be a source of living water to your surrounding! Wonderful, isn't it? You have in yourself a living well with living water to fulfil the deep longings of your soul and spirit. On the other hand, those who don't have the LORD Jesus Christ do not have this living water and therefore must demand it from their surroundings.

In the Bible water is a symbol of life. Whoever does not possess Christ in his heart (or spirit), misses simply the **life**! Thus the deep hunger and thirst of the soul and the spirit persist. Therefore, such a person is constantly in search of people and whatever purposes in life to satisfy their deep longings. And of course, this includes as well all **religious** offers in a "Christian" shell. Unfortunately, this will never solve the problem because the hunger and thirst will constantly come up again.

The other way round will be when Jesus Christ Himself lives in you and has become your life. HE is that well in you that generates new life daily and

continually feeds you to satisfy your hunger and thirst. Whoever bears in himself Jesus Christ possesses everything: a well that springs up to everlasting life. Whatever the human soul needs is yours: the **love of God**, the **peace** and **God's security**, the **wisdom** and the **power of God** and many more things. You have everything through the indwelling of Jesus moment by moment!

The underlying signs are visible. If a Christian has not fully acknowledged the LORD Jesus Christ and does not have Him as his life, he always looks for a **substitute**. The procedure remains the same. He seeks more after Christian information and knowledge, signs and miracles, spiritual highlights and sensations etc. Right there, the enemy shows up maliciously as an *angel of light* especially in these end times! Anyone who does not have Jesus Christ is always strolling around looking for fulfilment. In some way, he is looking for Jesus, but without being aware of it.

Joyful and Fulfilled in Christ?

Since that day when I experienced the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ this *fountain that springs up into everlasting life* is being built in me. Since then the hunger and thirst within me has ceased. Nothing or nobody could convince me to travel to any place just to listen to a "powerful man", or to make exciting spiritual experiences. In and through Christ I have the **life**. He satisfies my hunger and thirst in the soul and in the spirit. Although I may still need more spiritual insights, I don't need anything more. For sure I need the indwelling source who is in me, then automatically I grow in Him, from a child to a young man, from a young man to a father in Christ. We only need this divine source and the complete **life-link with Jesus Christ**. This will for sure satisfy every hunger and thirst at our soul and spirit. Did not Paul write: ... *how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* (Rom. 8:32)

I ask you to check yourself honestly right now if you are truly happy and fulfilled in your present situation. Presumably you will notice that there still exist quite a number of unfulfilled desires. It may be that you lack the fullness in Christ or don't have it at all. Are you perhaps satisfied with the seductive offers of the darkness, and do you fulfil your hunger and thirst in a worldly manner? Then you may still need this or that but still find yourself unfulfilled. They can be satisfying for a moment but at the end they bring frustration. The provider was not the LORD, but the **counterfeit** of the **darkness**.

When Jesus began to explain the central points of the Gospel, surprisingly most of His so-called disciples left Him, and only the twelve disciples remained whom He had chosen before. *To them He asked: "Are you also going to leave? Simon Peter replied, "LORD, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."*(John 6:67-69)(NLT). They **realized** that the Words of Jesus were **spirit and life**. There is even more than that: **in Jesus Christ alone is life**, and **He is your life**. You can't fulfil your needs by a religious doctrine or attachment to a person or any spiritual experience. No you will find fulfilment only by being ONE with a single person, with Jesus Christ. That's why the disciples didn't go away. They did not have any other alternative left for them. In other words they ex-

pressed: “We’re not leaving you since in You is the life, since you are the source of life. When we have You we have life.” This was a direct divine revelation imparted by the spirit.

The day you receive this God-given revelation your constant search ends. What man needs is an intimate living relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us quote Asaph who says in **Psalms 73:25-26** so nicely: *Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.* Rightly so. In Christ you possess everything. Every hunger and thirst are satisfied. You will then be the happiest person on earth!

From the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, we can wonderfully recognize this fact. In a way, Jesus said to her: “Woman, you must go and fetch water every day anew, because you need it for life. But after all, you have many more deep needs in your soul. You have satisfied them till now at the wrong place, through your lovers. This is why you are so unhappy and will remain so until your life’s end. But look: I have something much better for you. I am the answer to your deep hunger and thirst. When I have become your life and dwell in you, you will be the happiest person in Samaria, because you will find rest for your soul.” The woman understood the message. She left the water bucket at the well and mobilized the whole city. She had experienced the Messiah Jesus Christ! And all the residents of the city came to Him and all they have concluded: *we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world* (John 4:42).

Second Case Study: Jesus, the Bread of Life

In **John 6:32-35** we can read the following: *Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “LORD, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*

When I read this passage for the first time as a young Christian, I was speechless. It sounds so clear and unbelievable because it never corresponds with the human experience. There Jesus asserts in other words the following: “If I am totally your life and live in you without restriction, you will then no longer hunger and thirst.” This would mean nothing else than that **in Christ, all our needs** would be **satisfied!** This was quite challenging me because this saying could just mean either the **life** – or a wicked religious deception. This I wanted of course to find out and to experience it. In **John 6:48-51** Jesus explicitly proclaims: *I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.*

God is the creator of man, regardless whether this fact fits in with his world's view or not. It is indispensable that the deepest hunger and thirst of the human soul can solely be satisfied through an **intimate communion** with his creator, i.e. by a total living union with Jesus Christ. Such is the logical conclusion of the Word of God. Christians have various unsatisfied needs, how much more the people in the world. Isn't this strange when looking on these particular verses? Yet some wrestle in prayer to get more strength. Like the world they are engaged in different activities, looking for security in companionship etc. In some way, they have almost the same needs as worldly people. So, there must be something wrong, or something must be missing. Perhaps, many Christians are religious or "Christian-like". They have acquired a "Christian" vocabulary and move around in their "Christian" environment. However, if they are sincere, they will recognize that their innermost needs and longings are not really fulfilled.

This leads me to the essential conclusion: All deep emotional and human needs can basically be satisfied only by either of **two ways**: Either on the level of the **spirit** or on the level of the **soul**. You will either reach your goal or miss it. We will now come to the subject on the Christian-religious movements who assume to satisfy these innermost needs.

One of them is the so-called **Toronto-Blessing-wave** which hit the Christian world in the nineties. This movement touched many countries, supported by the great mobility and the possibilities of the mass media in our modern society. When I got the first feedback of the typical manifestations of this movement, I began to study them on the basis of the Word of God – especially also in connection with the present subject. How could it happen that hundred thousands of Christians were drawn to this movement? Simply because their innermost needs and longings were not satisfied! The great cost of money and time didn't matter for the sake of getting a blessing. Allegedly, more than 250'000 Christians travelled to Toronto, Canada just to receive the promised blessing! But what they overlooked was the tragic fact that this outstanding and spectacular event just satisfied the needs and longings of their **soul**, but surely not their **spirit**. Meanwhile, years passed by, aside from the high cost of money, time etc and the "high" spiritual experience in the soul, practically nothing is left behind. A clear deception and a shattered illusion!

How you are Taken Care of Spiritually

How does the LORD feed man's inner needs in his spirit? The expression "feed" sounds rather odd, but not groundless. Jesus requested his audience directly to eat Him as the bread of life (John 6:51, 58). The LORD "feeds" us so to speak with Himself. The inevitable consequence will be: Man has no longer hunger and thirst. How does it work practically that one can now "**eat**" Jesus Christ? This is basically the main topic of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the message of the **cross**. The focal point of Paul's gospel message was therefore *Jesus Christ, and Him crucified* (1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2). What does this mean exactly?

Just having knowledge about the cross helps little. Christians talk much about the cross without understanding it, much more experiencing it. It is for them a religious symbol which historically is not even proven because most likely, Jesus Christ was not hanged on a cross, but rather on a pole. But what matters to us is not an external object, but its symbolic meaning. The cross means nothing else than a **final station** and **death**. According to the Word of God, man in his nature is totally rotten and fallen; there is nothing good within us (Rom.3; 7:18). The consequences are seen daily in the news or read about it in a history book. Why does man do nothing else but destroy? Why is man's history full of dreadful accounts of a continuous destruction? It is because his make-up is **entirely corrupted** and **totally fallen**. The LORD made it clear through His statement about man *that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* (Gen. 6:5).

For this reason the heavenly Father sacrificed His son Jesus Christ so that every person who identifies himself with His work at the cross will obtain a new heart, new nature and a new personality. Paul explained it in a fantastic way showing the only hope for a fallen man as follows: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation* (2 Cor. 5:17). It means that by a **total union with Jesus Christ** and in **living constantly in Him** man gets the chance to start all over again. He is restored to the original **life** or that original **spirit** which the first people lost on the great fall. Thus the LORD offers you to make a new beginning in Christ, and this with a new life and a new spirit.

To make this happen practically, you ought to experience personally in your inner being the **co-crucifixion** with Jesus Christ. Through child-like faith, you should experience in your innermost being the cross and death of Jesus. This is exactly the message of Jesus Christ and Him as crucified. As it was with Jesus so will it be same for you: your end station and death to your old, fallen nature. By faith you will believe you died with Jesus on the cross and buried together with Him. However, after death comes the co-resurrection with Jesus Christ with which you identify as well. Now begins the **new life in Christ!** This is the only way which is made available by God to acquire the eternal life of Jesus Christ and by that eternal salvation. Any other religious and as well "Christian" way represents a malicious satanic mistake. There is a distinct way back to the eternal God and His eternal glory, and this is **the total union with Jesus Christ in crucifixion, death and resurrection**. Consequently, the teaching of Jesus was: *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me* (John 14:6). What is meant with "through Me" is the personal experience of the co-crucifixion and death with Jesus Christ. Your old self must be totally brought to its end: it must die and be put aside so that the new man can once again start from the beginning.

To feed your spirit means nothing else than that Jesus Christ is offered to you in the fullness of His life. To get this life, the following price is to be paid: Death to your old self, the personal experience of the cross in your heart. This will then result in the experience as described by Paul in **Gal. 2:20**: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*. As from now on when Jesus Christ dwells in you by the Holy Spirit, you will experience a great miracle: You do not have hunger and thirst anymore! Your innermost needs in your human spirit and your soul are completely and in all eternity satisfied.

As for me, the experience of the indwelling of Jesus Christ in my life was impressive. I was about to commit suicide, when the LORD Jesus Christ at the very last moment sent people to me who briefly said, conveyed the following message to me: “What you are seeking from the bottom of your heart, can be given to you only by Jesus Christ.” As a totally unbelieving worldly person this advice did not make a sense to me. However, this same information was given to me within a time period of ten days from three different sides without explicit coordination. Since I had nothing to lose anymore, I tried it and accepted the LORD Jesus Christ as my life, without even knowing Him and without proof that He would still be really alive. It lasted just a few hours, when there was an overwhelming reaction. Up to that point in time, I had a huge vacuum in my soul and my spirit. It was filled immediately by the Holy Spirit! The deep hunger and thirst ceased. I now possessed Jesus Christ as my life. And He transformed my life in a short time totally. Of course, this takes a lifelong process. But the resulting consequence was impossible to overlook. Thanks to a most intimate union with Jesus Christ, I received His new life, and this had the effect that this deep hunger and thirst of my soul and my spirit was satisfied.

A vital aspect of the gospel message of Jesus Christ is therefore the following: **In Christ**, all the **innermost needs** of man are **once and for all satisfied** and fulfilled! I am definitely not talking about religion or membership to any religious organization, but solely about **our life being entirely united with Christ** day by day. Such a person will regardless of his outward circumstances be totally taken care of. This means nothing else but a glorious place in the midst of the hectic pace of modern performance-oriented society.

Joy, as an Example

Naturally, everybody is seeking for joy – the Christians are not exempted. Basically, joy must always originate from a source or a reason. The Word of God mentions the expression “joy” as being a part of *the fruit of the Spirit* in **Gal. 5:22**. Therefore, **joy** would be the **logical fruit of a life out of the Holy Spirit**. The Greek word for joy is called *chara* and means: joy infused by the Holy Spirit. If joy in your life is produced by the Holy Spirit, it will be logically totally independent from circumstances and emotions such as feelings, surrounding conditions etc. Your joy will be maintained and always be the same. Since your joy is nourished by the Holy Spirit, it is untouchable and keeps always the same wonderful qualities.

The Word of God contains wonderful illustrations. For example, the apostle Paul was thrown into prison in Philippi bleeding on his back with his feet fastened in the stocks – and that is where he experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit. His heart was so filled with worship that the whole prison was shaken (Acts 16:16-34). Paul was a man in Christ. His spirit was constantly fed and nourished by the LORD Jesus Christ indwelling in him. And that is exactly the spring of water from which flows continuously the always “overcoming” water into eternal life. If **Jesus Christ is your life**, you may lose everything – and will still be the richest man on earth! Visibly everything could go wrong – but the deep inner joy will always be the same – the same is for example with peace or the power of God when really Christ dwells in you. Because if you are truly in Christ, you will

manifest the divine qualities of life. Therefore, you are the richest and happiest person on this planet, and this for time and eternity! This is nothing else than logical reality for a spiritual Christian.

Thus if Jesus Christ as the crucified – and logically we as co-crucified – is proclaimed, we shall then be nourished in the spirit. Whoever takes his cross daily, walks through the narrow gate and has accepted the message of the cross, will effectively be in Christ and have no hunger and thirst any more. Consequently, the LORD Jesus Christ has told us the wonderful truth. He alone is the *bread of life*. To eat Him signifies that we have experienced the **inmost union** with Him in cross, death and co-resurrection. The result can be a totally happy life only- exactly as it was promised by Jesus. A marvellous example is found of Asaph in **Psalms 73:25-26**: *Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.* This is exactly the confession of a man who has eaten Jesus Christ, the bread of life. He was nourished in the spirit. Now everything on earth could pass away – he was simply the happiest person on earth!

Let's be honest: Is this so in your life? If you don't make the experience in your daily life, you will then be in great spiritual dangers. Because on the one hand you have logically unsatisfied desires, and on the other hand those desires will most probably be satisfied through your soul instead of in your spirit. This vicious circle can have severe consequences for your spiritual life.

The Feeding of the Soul

There are various ways to nourish the soul. But behind all of them stands the **enemy**! If the desires of the Christians are satisfied through the soul, they will unintentionally run directly into the arms of the enemy. How then does the enemy feed the soul? To illustrate this, I take the subject of the "**emotions**" in Christian circles. To have feelings, respectively emotions is certainly not morally wrong. But they are the usual functions of the human soul. That is where exactly the devil gets in. He offers you for example spectacular **miracles** and **signs** that were predicted by Jesus Christ Himself as well as the apostle Paul in particular with a view to the end of times (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9-12). During the last period of time before the advent of the LORD, there will be false Christs and prophets standing up and perform great miracles and signs. The unpleasant conclusion can be drawn that apparently the LORD Himself, as well as false Christs and prophets can perform wonders and signs. How can we recognize what comes from "above" and what from "below"? Here I would like to give some crucial information.

Firstly, I am asking you what you are really **looking for** in your life. If you are looking in actual fact after the LORD Jesus Christ, your **spirit** will then be nourished. You will in consequence be filled by Christ and possess His life. You can then safely disregard any other manifestation. If however your desires are not satisfied through the spirit (i.e. through an inmost living relationship with Christ), your soul will automatically look out for spectacular things: miracles, power, action, highlights, breakthroughs and all such things with "Christian"

signs which are nowadays offered by the world as well. A worldly person is constantly looking after the exceptional, the outstanding, the spectacular. The deep desires are altogether satisfied through his **soul**.

The answer given by the world is e.g. **religion** or **sects**. All of them are designed to satisfy the hunger of the soul. Or the answer could be **New Age** with all of its hundreds and thousands of esoteric groups engaged in self-discovery and self-fulfilment. All of them have a common ground: They satisfy the hunger and thirst on the level of the human soul – and therefore at the totally wrong place! And unfortunately, most of the “Christian” movements’ are affected by them.

Some time ago, I had the opportunity to see a movie about the New Age Movement. A presentation of the Baghwan movement was also shown. What I saw made me almost sick. What upset me most was not primarily their service with its completely unchristian far eastern appearances, but rather the almost identical performances which can be seen typically in the “Christian” movement of the “Toronto- Blessing”! In the meantime, followers of this “Christian” revival movement in effect had to admit that various phenomena experienced in the “Toronto-Blessing-Wave” are found as well in New Age groups and non Christian religions! This must alarm every spiritual Christian immediately.

In the course of this “blessing wave” about 70’000 Christian congregations were destabilized, in Switzerland supposedly 300. In all of these congregations were thousands of sincere people who were told that this was surely of the LORD – regardless of the fact that the imminent phenomena and their resulting implications could to a large extent in no way be justified biblically which was also acknowledged by the advocates. Their argument was that the “Holy Spirit” nowadays would reveal Himself in a new and unusual manner.

Disturbingly all of those propaganda which satisfy the needs of the soul, are showing same manifestations. All of the religious promoters, New Age advocates and esoteric groups produce the same results. As such, the participants at the said Baghwan-ceremony were shouting like mad – hundreds of people, all of them dressed in red. In another scene all of them were laying like unconscious on the floor. Again they trembled extremely in a way which man under normal circumstances could have hardly endured for more than one minute. The joints of the participants’ bodies looked as if they were dislocated.

The Spirit of the Antichrist

Is there a coincidence that the same phenomena were visible in the Toronto-Blessing-Wave? No! This guides us unmistakably to an invisible organization. The Word of God defines it very clearly: The manager is a spirit in the unseen world, the so-called **spirit of the Antichrist** (1 John 4:3). According to the explanations given by the apostle John, this spirit of the Antichrist was already active among the first Christian communities in the first century A.D. How much more will this spirit be active towards the end of this area among Christian circles – not to mention other circles! I have not even procured this information by myself – they are conveyed to me continually. Thus I received lately an educational book on the true and actual strategies of the Catholicism for our present

time. It reminds inevitably of the darkest times of the Middle Ages what now should be built up before our eyes. In fact behind the scenes of our society, a program is put into place with great urgency with one specific aim, namely to **brainwash people**. And they will be subjected to their influence in these coming years by a religious approach amidst Christian communities. The means are e.g. fake movements of the “Holy Spirit” who however have just one clear aim: to prepare the people for the great dictator who will show up sometime and who may perhaps already be living on earth – the Antichrist, or the Beast, as can be read in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 13 etc.).

In the unseen world a method is being applied that ends up in a systematic **manipulation** of man in the realm of the **spirit**. The Word of God defines it as the **Spirit of the Antichrist** or as the **spirit of this world**. Origin and impact are finally identical. The declared enemy of God and enemy of man stands behind it – Satan. He tries to deceive in particular the Christians with every possible means. He does so among other things to wrongly satisfy their inner needs – thus through the fallen soul instead of through the awakened spirit. Resulting consequence is that in most Christian circles, they do no longer profess Jesus Christ and Him as crucified. This is certainly not done in circles supporting the Toronto-Blessing-Wave and the waves that followed suit subsequently. They rather talk of a new “spirit” that overwhelms them. They literally declare: “We have come under this spirit. Since then, we do have these phenomena.” Or: “Since this spirit is working in our community we do have these phenomena.” And how do (or did) these phenomena look like: extreme trembling, crying, falling down, lying like unconsciously on the floor, to be like drunken (as under alcohol), to emit sounds of animals etc. All this should have been inspired by the Holy Spirit ...

Meanwhile, I had to do counselling for various persons who were in a state of shock because of these developments. Some of them were witnesses of situations where people behaved like wild animals during the “church service”. It should no doubt be very clear that the Holy Spirit would never manifest Himself in such a way. However, if the same phenomena come up as well in non Christian, esoteric and religious groups, there must be clearly a common denominator.

A basic question came up to me: Why are many sincere Christians attracted to such manifestations? To me the answer is clear: They satisfy their inner needs at the wrong source, because what they are missing is Jesus Christ Himself as their life and their entire purpose in life. Consequently, the *angel of light* (Satan) offers to them a substitute in a clever deceptive-religious wrapping. And now they get what they were longing for: emotions, blessing, miracles and signs. But everything goes right through the **soul!** The thirsty Christian makes now the experience of a spiritual breakthrough, mighty feelings of joy and peace etc. But in actual fact, solely his emotions were fed – and that is where he has been trapped by the enemy. The way how the enemy catches people and many Christians as well is also by their unsatisfied needs and longings. They overlook the fact that they were simply fed at the fallen soul, but never in the spirit.

The Test: the Fruits

How can an upright Christian recognize the true instigator of such deceitful movements? By their **long-term fruits** such movements and their followers develop. According to the parable of the wheat and the bad weeds (resembling wheat) the fruits can look like being identical with the good ones for quite some time (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43). Feelings of peace and joy can be fruits of the spirit as well as results of the fallen soul. Great is the deception. As an example I possess a photograph showing two persons who by way of transcendent meditation “fly” in the air about half a meter from the floor in Yoga position and with their hands entangled. Besides this incredible phenomenon I was particularly impressed by their physiognomy. I have till now hardly seen any Christian who radiates with such joy. The picture is in itself the personification of total joy. But this is exactly the central point of every esoteric offer and as such of the darkness. It presents to man with his non satisfied inner needs total happiness, total joy, total peace etc. This New Age philosophy is nowadays hindered in the world by a group of people – of extreme Christians who stand firmly on the Word of God, so that they are based on the Spirit of God. Interestingly enough, this thought was propagated also within the neo-Christian revival movements. They were saying that there would be just a small minority opposed to those spectacular movements. These are those who are in Christ and live in the Holy Spirit. They do not let them be deceived by pseudo-Christian phenomena, but they solely desire to be in Christ because in Him dwells the fullness of God-head, and in Him only can every hunger and thirst be satisfied once and for all.

The Separation of Soul and Spirit

Since the enemy works through the functions of the fallen soul, it becomes obvious that spirit and soul must be separated from each other. But, how should this be done, because by our own human effort it is impossible. If someone says he has seen and experienced Jesus and that he now possesses joy and a deep peace – what remains then still to be objected? Does this result from the fallen and deceived soul, or from the awakened spirit in Christ? For that, there is just one tip given: Some patience! Whatever comes from the soul, will last just for a while. But what originates from the spirit, i.e. really out of Christ, will last in **all eternity**.

The Holy Spirit always uses the **Word of God** as an instrument to separate soul and spirit sooner or later. I quote for that **Heb. 4:12+13**: *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* Quite obviously, it is the **Word of God** alone that can finally separate soul and spirit. It is as well the only reference to assess correctly “Christian revivals.” Curiously enough, the followers of such new movements acknowledge the fact that some of the things that happen could not be found in the Word of God. But the arguments that follow are most alarming: The LORD

would intervene in our days somewhat different than as described in the Word of God, and this we would have to accept!!

Do you realize how sweet the *angel of light* argues and traps all naive Christians through the fallen soul? While the LORD of the universe made it very clear that heaven and earth will pass away, but by no means one single word of His will pass away (Matt. 5:18; 24:35), the exponents of “Christian” movements take the liberty to rule over the Word of God and to modify it without hesitation. The fruits disclose very clearly who really is behind these movements. A spirit filled Christian instead will examine everything by the Word of God: developments, sentiments, appearances etc. All of it must be identical with the comprehensive Word of God. Since the Word of God alone has the possibility to separate soul and spirit, it must by all means remain the sole basis.

Christ in us, the Hope of Glory

Who after all is the Word of God? It is **Jesus Christ!** Thus the whole matter has come full circle: If Christ really dwells in you, then your spirit has been fed before with Jesus Christ. Consequently, you no longer have any hunger or thirst. You will be entirely satisfied with the LORD Jesus Christ alone. You bear within you the full divine life, the *spring* and the *streams of living water* within you. There is nothing else left what a spiritual Christian would still need because all things were *given freely* to him in Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:32). He possesses in Him *all the fullness of the Godhead bodily* (Col. 2:9), this marvelous *treasure in earthen vessels* (2 Cor. 4:7).

If you are now constantly in Christ and therefore in His Word, you will be protected from all deceptions of the end times, how temptingly sweet they may be. You will never again be satisfied with the usual “feeding of the soul” by some Christian circles. You neither need spectacular church services with outstanding wonders and signs any more that are allegedly generated by the Holy Spirit. *He who has the Son has life* was written by the Apostle John (1 John 5:12). With life is meant: the **divine, overflowing and dynamic eternal life of Jesus Christ.**

What more do you then still need? After all, you bear within you the LORD and His Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is at work in you second by second so long as you remain obedient. The Word of God speaks here of **sanctification. Consistent repentance and continuous sanctification** are essential parts of the work of the Holy Spirit. Significantly enough, these most essential elements are mostly totally missing in modern “awakening movements”. They argue that this would no longer be necessary because the Spirit would take over everything. By this way, of course, things will become much easier and faster, but finally this is always the approach of the enemy how he satisfies the needs of the soul and the emotions.

Looking at all the chaotic developments of the end time, one fact steadily remains: the **Word of the Living God.** It is and remains the eternal glorious truth. And I can bear witness that such a position exists where the spirit is “fed” to such extent that afterwards there will be no hunger and thirst left. It has certainly cost my old life and I became to some extent partaker of the afflictions of

Christ. But the inevitable consequence will be that the dynamite of the cross starts to manifest itself. Therefore, I am no longer dependent on having the needs of my soul satisfied. In this way one gets immune against the developments in our environment of the end times. It is no longer the outer success that is asked for, high feelings of blessings and ideal conditions to be happy. If I just have Jesus Christ, I shall be spiritually seen in an excellent situation all around me.

Through all the time of the body of Christ, there were Christians who were ready to suffer death. Some of them opposed the biblically wrong Catholicism that cost their lives. And why did they remain faithful to Jesus Christ? Because He was really their life. This was the only reason why they were in a position to give up soul/body. If your spirit is really filled with Christ, you will then be able without any problem to relinquish everything else. This is among others the mystery of the **triumphant life**. In our days, many Christians can live only if they are rich in the soul and can comfortably make a living. Basis is the so-called **prosperity theology** which was as always imported from the U.S.A.: Whenever God is with you, you will be financially-wise well off. If you do not succeed and do not live in earthly wealth, there must be something wrong with you. This is more or less the unbiblical position of these movements that are finally built up on the soul. The sender of it can be no one else than the *angel of light*. Why can I assert this? Because otherwise, Jesus, Paul and all martyrs would have been wrong! They all had greatest difficulties to face and had to pay with their death for their conduct. The devil misuses clearly the **needs** of the **human soul** and presents everything in the wrong sense, whereupon men are prompted to establish a new “theology” out of it.

Conclusion

I started in this text in asking you how you satisfy your hunger and your thirst. The conclusion is: **Never** satisfy them with people, doctrines, theologies, churches, congregations or any other places where emotions, wonders and alike are offered. Satisfy your hunger and your thirst **with Jesus Christ alone**. And if you are in your normal course of life in Christ and remain there, your LORD will protect and save you as His true sheep. He will never admit that you would be taken out of His hands. What is to come shortly is surely the great **apostasy** (2 Thess. 2:3). In a short time, there will be a great multitude of Christians who will be negatively influenced and transformed. They will expose themselves to a spirit which is not *of God* and will be imperceptibly misguided. Surprisingly enough, God will support this because many Christians finally *did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie* (2 Thess. 2:9-12). Let us be clear that this separation will go right through all Christendom, and not through the world.

May your eyes be opened, if you have satisfied your innermost needs at the wrong address. The only answer can just be a **life fully in Jesus Christ** because in Him you will get directly everything whatever you need for time and eternity!

LORD Jesus Christ, I thank you that you have explicitly warned your true people about these developments in the end times that will come up in the last stage before your return – namely wonders and signs and tremendous demonstrations as if they were given by You. Thank you, LORD Jesus Christ that you have given us a perfect opportunity to protect ourselves – namely the total union with You and an intense use of Your Word.

LORD Jesus Christ, keep the reader from being contented with a cheap spiritual food. Bring him into a total union with Your good self so that he will be found in You and in You alone possesses the life and all sufficiency. Equip this reader so that he can give Your life and Your truth to many other distressed people in his environment. LORD Jesus Christ, may You give grace that your congregation can once more be manifested in uprightness and glory as Your Word describes. Thank You, that You will safeguard your people from these infiltrations of the end times and prepare it to the visible union with Your good self. I thank You for that. Amen.

Bruno Schaer – March 2011

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All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV.

Original German title: *Wie stillst du deinen Hunger und deinen Durst?* (2006)

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