Preparing Our Hearts

True hunger for God is a rare thing. The spiritual famine that many-times overtakes the land results more from a lack of hunger than a lack of food. God has provided His Son in such abundance that it will take worlds without end to partake of Him. The current rise of feeding self through "Christian things" has drawn people away from the Table of the Lord to eat of things that will never satisfy... for only God Himself satisfies.

Our dear Father has many young children who are hungry for something instead of Someone. They pursue their Father for the things that He can give them. Many Christians desire to receive their inheritance from the Father, but how many of us really understand what that inheritance is? Is our true inheritance the things God gives us or the mind and nature of the Heir, His Son, in us? Have our hearts so fully turned towards the Lord that we count nothing as gain or treasure apart from His very Life filling us? It takes time for a hunger to develop in a person where nothing apart from the Lord Himself matters

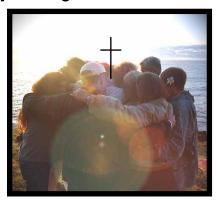
Oh That 1 Might Know You!

Our love and hunger for God will make us want to press deeper into His heart until we know even His hidden desires. There are times throughout the scriptures where God would allow those who were hungry to know Him to experience things that would bring them into fellowship with Him. He allowed Adam to feel the deep loneliness of not having one after his own kind. Joseph knew rejection from those he loved the most. God allowed Hosea to know what it feels like to have an unfaithful wife. Jeremiah felt his own heart break over those who had forgotten and left God in their heart. Jeremiah cried God's tears. David yearned for God to have a house more than getting his own house. Beyond teaching, information or correct doctrine... these people knew their God from the inside out. They felt His pain. They were burdened with His desires. They lived to help make His dreams come true rather than their own.

Thou Art Worthy Oh God

Throughout eternity there will be one central theme echoing in the throne-room of God, pouring out from the mouths of those who found the Table of the Lord and ate the Lamb. The book of Revelation captures this prayer for us so that we might hear the heart of eternal relationship and join in its chorus during this life, even now. "Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). Blessed be the Lamb who was slain so that we could partake of all His fullness through endless ages, even worlds without end. He has poured out His soul unto death, allowed His body to be crucified, and given us His Life without measure... holding back nothing from us. May we bless this blessed Lamb! He is worthy, yes... even to receive!

The Spirit of Our Gatherings



When we gather together as the Lord's body we long to be with Him in a very tender and living way. We do not just desire to go through a routine or have a social outing. We come to hear what is on the Lord's heart and what the Spirit is saying to the Church. We long for the Lord's heart to be opened to us as the Spirit's living touch quickens the scriptures and flows among us, ministering through us one to another. I truly believe that the attitude of heart we gather in can help to welcome the Lord in these ways. We can seek to cultivate an attitude in the gathering that will make the Lord feel cherished and honored. We can seek to be unto the Lord a place where He feels free to share His heart "safely" among those who will listen and receive Him with love and care.

A Prayer

"Lord, our goal and ultimate desire is that our gatherings and very existence would be something for Your heart. We want to offer ourselves up for You to get Your bride and body in the ways that You need. We know if we give ourselves to You in that way our needs will be meet. But we are not going to seek our needs first, but your needs, Jesus. Our deepest need is not You for us, but You for You. We have come hungry, needy and desiring more of You. We want You to get what You need and desire. Our desire is towards Your needs above our own. And however seeking You first in this way affects us, we know that it will be more than enough just to see Your face, Your heart fulfilled and Your desires and needs met. We want to be people who know, love and seek You for You. That is more important to us than anything.

This is why we gather. We are not gathering to first add unto ourselves knowledge or healing or blessing or even things that come from You. We have come to add ourselves to You because we are Your body, Your bones and Your flesh.

Lord we do not want our souls to be understood. We want to understand You more than we want You to understand us. We are not seeking our own honor or recognition, but have come to declare Christ as our all. We want to die to the need to always make ourselves the center and importance of everything. We want to lift up Jesus as pre-eminent in the very attitude of our thoughts, prayers and way of living. Lord, if we honor You in this way we know that we will be able to minister to You and others properly. We make a decision to prepare ourselves in this way for You. When we speak forth, may it be on Your behalf and for Your needs, rather than to constantly declare our needs in this earth and temporal life. We believe that as we pour our heart out for Your care there will be a flow of Life that will be waters for Your feet, blessings to Your heart, and an overflow of Your Life for others.