



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

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Monday, July 5, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 5:6

TITLE: What Are You Hungry For?

What are you hungry for? I could really go for a big juicy burger with cream cheese and jalapeños, with a side of onion rings. Or do you know what else sounds good? Maybe a vacation with my wife to the Florida beaches. That would satisfy me as well. What about you? What are you hungry for?

Well, what about spiritually? What are you hungry for? According to the feedback you provide, many of you feel spiritually stuck. You hunger for spiritual growth. That is something we all should hunger for above anything else.

Listen to Jesus' words in Matthew 5:6 (ESV): Jesus said, “[Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.](#)”

One of the key factors for spiritual growth is developing the hunger for it. Jesus said, [Blessed are those who hunger](#), or have an intense desire, or pull, or attraction. For what? For righteousness. You see, when we pursue spiritual fitness or spiritual growth, what are we aiming for? Righteousness.

Now, righteousness is to be blameless. It's right standing before God. This is something we cannot achieve in our own efforts. We are all sinners who need a gracious Savior. And according to Ephesians 2, our salvation is a gift of God.

So we can't achieve righteousness by our actions. Instead, we hunger and strive to live out our righteousness with God's help. Spiritual growth is an intentional process. It takes daily steps.

In John C. Maxwell's book, *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*, he says, growth doesn't just happen. You have to aim for it, because you can achieve goals without ever growing - just like in school. You can cram for a test - ace it - and then forget everything you studied. You hit the goal, but did not grow.

Now you're probably wondering, “How does a person grow spiritually?” Well, there are many ways to pursue spiritual fitness. But the #1 way is to engage in Scripture 4 or more times per week. According to our research, people who engage in God's word 4 or more times per week are:

- 60% less likely to feel spiritually stagnant
- 59% less likely to view pornography
- 31% less likely to struggle with forgiving others

- 30% less likely to struggle with loneliness¹

So take Jesus' words seriously. Hunger for righteousness. How? Begin eating a steady diet of His Word.

So here's my challenge for you today: Engage in God's Word.

We have some great reading plans here at Back to the Bible. Check out some of our plans in the links below. Our Daily Forward Devotional is a great place to start engaging, and also interacting with passionate, caring learners like you. Also, if you've not taken our spiritual fitness assessment in our goTandem app, do so. It will feed you the content you need, when you need it, to engage in God's Word.

When we hunger for righteousness, we will keep growing spiritually. When we do this, we will win the day.

¹ [https://bttbfiles.com/web/docs/cbe/Scientific Evidence for the Power of 4.pdf](https://bttbfiles.com/web/docs/cbe/Scientific_Evidence_for_the_Power_of_4.pdf)