

WHEN HUNGER IS GOOD

-Ryan Parsons-

Psalm 107:4-9 describes a band of travelers in the wilderness. They had no direction, and their provisions of food and water had run out. They were lost and alone, hungry and thirsty. It is at this point that they cried out to God. Interestingly, their physical hunger seems to have created more than a grumble in the tummy and a faint feeling in the body. Their physical yearning for food led to longing and hunger in their soul. It is this craving that is satisfied by God.

Psalm 107:4-9

Some wandered in desert wastes,
 finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty,
 their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
 and he delivered them from their distress.
He led them by a straight way
 till they reached a city to dwell in.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
 for his wondrous works to the children of man!
For he satisfies the longing soul,
 and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

In our journey as God's people here in Wheeling, we gather to fast in September. We don't do this to punish ourselves. Instead, we practice this discipline to remind us of our wandering journey in the wilderness and to clarify our weakness without God. Our temporary hunger in fasting leads our souls to long more deeply for him and hunger spiritually for his provision. Simply put, fasting draws us into the desert to acknowledge our complete and utter reliance on God.

May God bless us in September as we seek him and cry out to him in fasting. In addition, may we be filled with thanksgiving and praise as we experience his every provision, soul satisfaction, and steadfast love!

Oh Lord, give us souls that long for and hunger for you, and teach us to rely on your provision rather than ourselves!

To God be the Glory!
Ryan