



## *Reviewing Your Life Appetites*

Ask almost any Christian audience to tell you what attracts the presence, attention, and favor of God and they will offer up the right answer (or *answers* since there is more than one thing that God responds to). Listen carefully and you will hear people shout out answers like “prayer”, “holiness”, “worship”, “faith”, “humility”, “compassion”, or “unity”. And you know what? They are all right.

But if the presence of God is essential to transforming revival, and we know how to attract this presence, then why is it that so few communities are experiencing a divine visitation?

The absence of God’s presence in our lives and communities does not suggest an ignorance problem. What it *does* reveal, in dramatic and disturbing fashion, is an *appetite* problem.

When you made your way to this website today you arrived with an invisible list of life hungers. You were probably not thinking consciously about these appetites, but they were present nonetheless.

Some of the hungers on your list are what we call “Base Appetites”, and they are common to all human beings. They include things like food, sleep, water, and sex. They are called base appetites because they are essential to our survival as a species.

In addition to these base appetites, you will also have another type of hunger on your list. These are called “Selective Appetites” because they are unique to your individual personality and choices. Examples of selective appetites include control, security, reputation, freedom, and comfort. When these selective appetites are combined with our base hungers, it can make for a very long list.

The question before you is this: Where on this invisible list of life appetites is your hunger for the presence of God? Approaching this question in all honesty, would you say it ranks number three on your list? Number eight? Number twenty-two?

Most people assume their hunger for God’s presence ranks higher on their list — often far higher — than it really does. This is why we are sometimes confused by the apparent lack of divine activity in our individual lives and communities.

The following exercise will give you an opportunity to think about the weight you have given to certain life interests and needs. As you prepare for this exercise, ask God to reveal your heart to you *as he sees it*. This is what David did (Ps. 7:9, 44:21, 139:23-24), and it is the only way to get an objective assessment of ourselves.

Why is this evaluation important? Because transforming revival is triggered the moment our appetite for God’s presence trumps all other hungers in our lives. We become the man who discovered a buried treasure and gave up everything to acquire it (Mt. 13:44).

## Instructions

To determine your readiness for transforming revival, we invite you to prayerfully construct your own prioritized list of life appetites. Start by asking God to cleanse your heart and give you His perspective on current priorities. It may take some time to gain this divine objectivity (perhaps even days), but quick assumptions inevitably lead to skewed results.

To accurately rank your life hungers it is also useful to consider the following questions:

- 1) What is the total time I devote to this particular hunger/interest? (*Reviewing your calendar appointments can sometimes prove helpful, and most digital devices will track the amount of time you spend on them.*)
- 2) How frequently do I resort to certain thoughts or behaviors? (*This can range from occasional thoughts to hourly brooding or planning.*)
- 3) What is the intensity of my appetite for a certain thought or behavior? (Do you rationalize certain devotions or behaviors? Are you defensive about your ways?)

With these things in mind, carefully review the sample list of appetites laid out on page 3 (and any other examples you may wish to include). When you are ready to proceed, transfer these appetites to the appropriate spaces on the prioritized list below. If your hunger for God's presence does not top the list, ask him to speak to you about those urges or priorities that have been given precedence.

## Prioritized List of Life Hungers

1.	_____	21.	_____
2.	_____	22.	_____
3.	_____	23.	_____
4.	_____	24.	_____
5.	_____	25.	_____
6.	_____	26.	_____
7.	_____	27.	_____
8.	_____	28.	_____
9.	_____	29.	_____
10.	_____	30.	_____
11.	_____	31.	_____
12.	_____	32.	_____
13.	_____	33.	_____
14.	_____	34.	_____
15.	_____	35.	_____
16.	_____	36.	_____
17.	_____	37.	_____
18.	_____	38.	_____
19.	_____	39.	_____
20.	_____	40.	_____

## *General List of Life Appetites*

This listing is a partial sample designed to get you started. Feel free to include additional appetites you may recognize in your life.

- Food / Eating
- Sleep / Rest
- Personal Freedom
- Sex / Physical Touch
- Health
- Family / Parenting
- Comfort / Ease
- Peace / Conflict Avoidance
- Happiness
- Security / Plenty
- Friendships
- Artistic / Creative Pursuits
- Control / Power
- Shopping / Acquisition
- Privacy / Aloneness
- Reputation
- Moral Correctness / Superiority
- Digital Entertainment / Music
- Strategizing / Planning
- Order / Predictability
- Emotional Indulgence
- Racial or Cultural Purity
- Constant Communication
- Attractive Appearance
- Mystery / Abstraction
- Violence / Cruelty
- Doctrinal or Philosophical Truth
- The Past / Nostalgia
- Busyness / Accomplishment
- Education / Study / Knowledge
- Religious Tradition
- The Presence of God
- Winning
- Adventure / Excitement
- Bitterness / Revenge
- Change / Variation
- Purpose / Meaning
- Humor / Laughter
- Exploration / Travel
- Precision / Perfectionism