



# HUNGER & THIRST (Pt. 1)

Week 19 | October 7, 2024

Without consistent **nourishment** our bodies will quickly *waste away*. The hunger pains and aches we experience are God-given instincts that signal to our brains what our bodies need in order **to survive**. Likewise, God has given us *a spiritual hunger* for more than the physical world can offer. On a basic level, all beings created in God's image have an innate desire to **know Him** and **be known** by Him.

However, the issue arises when after *prolonged exposure* to this lost and fallen world we live in those hunger pains become **diluted**, **drowned out**, or **temporarily appeased** by things other than our Creator. This week, we are praying for *a spiritual hunger* so intense that it cannot be ignored to fall on our people, churches, and communities that they might **turn to God** and receive *complete* and *lasting satisfaction*, asking God to give us a:

## 1. **Craving for HIS WORD:** (Deuteronomy 8:3)

- a. **NOTE:** When God created human beings He designed us for **communication** with Him. We were made to *hear from God* and when we *lack His word* in our life other forces are quick to try to **fill that void**. So many *excuses abound* for why we shouldn't have to read the Bible. So many *reasons exist* why people don't need to go to church. It's almost as if **powerful forces** have allayed themselves against our *ability* and *opportunity* to hear from God. Pray this week for the Holy Spirit to instill within us an **unstoppable desire** to *hear from Him* that can only be fulfilled through the written and spoken word of God. (Psalm 119:20; Psalm 119:31)
  - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for placing within each of us a desire to **know You** and to **hear from You**. Thank You also for providing us with access to the *fulfillment of that desire* through Your word. I ask, Father, that You would **intensify** this longing within us and *overwhelm us* with a **NEED** to read, listen to, and consume Your word that overcomes every excuse and **defeats every obstacle**. May we find *satisfaction* in nothing else."
    1. **REMEMBER:** The *seeds of God's word* planted in **our hearts** produce abundant fruit in all seasons. (Psalm 1:2-3)

## 2. **Yearning for HIS VOICE:** (Psalm 85:8)

- a. **NOTE:** Sometimes found *in the fire*, other times *in the storm*, and oftentimes heard in the *quietness of solitude*—**God's voice** is all around us. He often *speaks*, but we rarely **listen**. He frequently *talks to us*, but seldom do we **hear**. Often we are too busy talking ourselves **to pause** to hear a response. Other times we fail to receive His message because *we don't like the messenger*. Whatever the reason, we are **missing out** on a critical element of our spiritual diet. As we pray this week, ask God to give us **a longing** to hear Him speak that causes us to *seek*, *stop*, and *listen*. (Exodus 3:2-4; Job 37:4-5; 1 Kings 19:11-13)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, I thank You for **speaking** to people like us who, on our own, are *completely and totally insignificant*. Thank You for placing value on and in us and for allowing us to **hear Your voice**. I ask, Lord, that You would *unstop our ears*, removing every proud hindrance to our hearing of You and giving us instead a **palpable hunger** to hear You speak. Oh God, please *slow us down* and shut us up so that we might **receive Your response** to our prayers, thereby participating in *actual conversation* with You.”
  1. **REMEMBER:** When *everything* and *everyone* else is screaming for your attention, focus on what **Your Father** is saying. God’s voice alone can *drown out the chatter*. (*Isaiah 55:2-3*)

### 3. **Dependence on HIS TRUTH:** (*Hebrews 2:1*)

- a. **NOTE:** In a world where truth has become **subjective**, often varying based on the *whims of the individual*, we are in desperate need of a strong and unwavering foundation. God’s truth is **available to all** and it *has not changed*, nor will it change, throughout all of time and history. Regardless of our **feelings** or **circumstance**, the truth of God *stands firm*—this is what we need today and is the only substance on which **an unshakeable life** can be built. Pray that God would give us *an awareness* of our need for this absolute as well as a *desire to see it fulfilled* that outweighs the strength and stubbornness of **our pride**. (*2 Timothy 2:19; John 8:32; John 14:6*)
  - i. **For Ex.** “Lord Jesus, thank You for *coming as* and *revealing to us complete truth*. Thank You for being the **firm foundation** on which we can build our lives. Please *shine Your light* into our hearts and reveal every lie we have believed as well as every area of **sinking sand** that is causing *instability and chaos* in our lives. Give us instead a love, affection, and longing for Your **pure** and **undefiled** truth that *sets us free* and *restores our souls*. Bless us also with a **HATRED** for deception, especially for the lies we tell ourselves.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** God’s truth is **offensive** to *our pride*. Without humility it is *impossible to accept* and will result in **our destruction**. (*Luke 20:17-18*)

### Questions for Reflection:

- Have you **cultivated the soil** of your heart to *receive and nourish* God’s word?
  - Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in you to tenderize and soften your heart by breaking up the **stony stubbornness** that has developed.
- Do you have trouble **recognizing God’s voice** among *all the others*?
  - We best learn to identify and disregard the **counterfeits** by studying *the genuine*. Your time in God’s word will train and equip you to **hear His voice**.
- What truth of God have you **ignored or rejected** because it *offended* your personal beliefs?
  - Repent of this arrogance before what was *given as a cornerstone* becomes a **stumbling block** in your life.