



HUNGER & THIRST (Pt. 2)

Week 20 | October 14, 2024

The **presence of God** is *intoxicating*. We were created for connection with our Creator and without **consistent exposure** to Him, a part of us *feels empty*. This desire, like all of the longings God placed in us, is good. He gave it to us with a purpose, knowing that **only in His presence** would we have access to His *comfort, peace, and healing*. (*Psalm 16:11; Acts 3:20; Hebrews 4:16*)

As with our **hunger for His word**, the issue arises when this desire is *misplaced, ignored*, or so badly *malnourished* that we hardly feel it anymore. This epidemic is the cause of so much **hurt, pain, and heartache** in our world today and explains much of the *brokenness* we see in our homes, churches, and communities. As we pray this week, ask God to give us an **unquenchable thirst** for *His presence* that causes us to seek out and embrace *His company*, for what we **truly need** today is a:

1. Longing for **HIS COMFORT**. (*Isaiah 66:13*)

- a. **NOTE:** Defined as the “*easing or alleviation of pain, grief, or distress*”, **comfort** is something every human being craves within *our innermost being*. We are often **hurting, scared, or saddened** and are looking for that touch that can make it all go away. This desire has been incredibly *misconstrued* over the years, leading people to seek and find comfort in **all the wrong people and things**. However, that does not make the need any *less real* or any *less right*. The innate **longing in our hearts** for comfort was placed there to draw us to our Creator, who alone can comfort us in all *times, places, and situations*. Pray that God **rekindles** and **stokes** this desire, pulling us closer to Himself. (*Psalm 71:21; Psalm 94:19; 2 Thess. 2:16-17*)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord God, thank You for Your **loving kindness** and *tender hearted mercies* that are new every morning. I thank You for adopting us as Your children that we might **run to You** in *our need*. I ask that You would reignite our longing for **comfort** and our need for **compassion**, that we would *turn to You* in seeking it. We need You God, help us to **realize it**. We need You Lord, *open our eyes*.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** The **comfort of God** was never meant to be *hidden* or *hoarded*. (*2 Corinthians 1:4*)

2. Passion for **HIS PEACE**. (*Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:6-7*)

- a. **NOTE:** In a world of *chaos, conflict, and disorder* our hearts cry out for **peace**. At the core of who we are we feel this need most intensely, but often it seems too far *out of reach*. Because of this, many have chosen to **embrace the chaos**, to the point that anything else now feels foreign and unfamiliar. Others still search for peace, but in the *wrong places* and by the *wrong means* such as **compromise** or **deception**. True peace, however, can only be found in God's presence. May God *purify this desire* within us, so that we might turn to the **Prince of Peace** and find what we're searching for. (*John 16:33; 2 Thess. 3:16; Isaiah 26:3*)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for being our **place of refuge** in the storm. Thank You for placing Your peace *within us* and for *wrapping us in it* as we turn to You and lean into You. I ask, Lord, that You would *renew within us* a passion, need, and desire for this **peace that passes all understanding**. Give us a thirst that *cannot be satisfied* by any counterfeit of the devil, this world, or our flesh and instead **draw us to Yourself** through *the promises* found in Your word.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Too many people are **conflict avoidant** instead of *peace pursuant*. (**Matthew 5:9**; **Psalm 34:14**)

3. Desperation for **HIS HEALING**. (**Isaiah 61:1**)

- a. **NOTE:** *Broken, battered, and wounded*. That is what we are. But like a man born with a defective leg, we often don't even recognize our limp for **being abnormal**. We are so accustomed to our *pain* and *dysfunction* that it seems to have become a part of **who we are**. Honestly, most of us wouldn't even know how to cope without it. What's even sadder than those who *don't know* that they're wounded are those who *are aware* but who have looked for healing in the **wrong places**. The problem with these “*false physicians*” and “*counterfeit medications*” that we run to is that they always result in greater damage than we faced before. Ask God to open our eyes to our **need for healing**, and pray that He places a *desperation in our hearts* for the restoration that only comes **in and through Him**. (**1 Peter 2:24**; **Psalm 147:3**; **Luke 6:18-19**)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Dear God, thank You for being our **Great Physician**. Thank You for sending Christ as *the healer of our hearts* and for allowing us to receive restoration in and through You. I ask now that You would bless us with an absolutely **desperate desire** for healing that comes from *an undeniable awareness* of our wounds and brokenness. Expose the **deadly prescriptions** of the world for what they are and *draw us to Yourself* that we might be made whole in and by **Your presence**.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Wounds **from the Lord** are always *for our good* and He stands ready and waiting to bind them up as well. (**Job 5:17-18**)

Questions for Reflection:

- How has God **comforted you** in the past?
 - Look for *opportunities to share* that same comfort with others, then you will truly be acting as His hands and feet!
- Have you been **avoiding conflict** through *compromise* or *complacency*?
 - Oftentimes the peace we pursue is found on the other side of **loving confrontation**.
- What wound from your past are you **continuing to ignore**, hoping it will just go away?
 - *Delusion* combined with *ignorance* is a poor treatment plan. Acknowledge your need and then **turn to God** to have it met.