



HUNGER & THIRST (Pt. 4)

Week 22 | October 28, 2024

Humanity's **prideful pursuit** of *power* has led to so much horror and devastation throughout history. From the **fall of man** in Genesis to the *conquests of world powers* over the centuries, we have always sought after greater degrees of influence and control. Yes, we were **created to rule**—to *govern over creation* as stewards of our Creator. Somewhere along the way, though, we lost sight of where our **true power** is derived from. Instead of pursuing the *Source of strength*, we began to seek after strength itself. Instead of striving for oneness with **the Maker**, we have sought to produce power of *our own making*. ([Genesis 1:28](#); [Acts 1:8](#))

Believe it or not, even the desire for power and influence **is not wicked** in and of itself. God is *powerful*, in fact He is power itself. Our longing for this attribute is really just **a reflection** of our *heart's cry for Christ*. Like every other desire, though, this one too has been corrupted. As we pray this week for the **people, churches, and communities** we are blessed to be a part of, ask God to give us a *pure and undefiled* hunger and thirst for His power that gives us:

1. Strength in Our **WEAKNESS** ([Isaiah 40:29](#))

- a. **NOTE:** A Christian's **true power** is found in *our weakest moments*. In the times that we are utterly broken and **helpless**, when we've finally *hit our knees* out of desperation, that is when **the glory of God** is most purely *revealed* and *experienced*. He created us for dependence on Him, for a life built on the strength of **our relationship** and characterized by *His strength* flowing through us. Pray, then, that in our weakness we would **seek Him**, for *disaster strikes* when we look *anywhere else*. ([Isaiah 31:1](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, I thank You for **Your strength**. Thank You for being so wonderfully *perfect* and *powerful*. I thank You also for our weakness and for how You continually work **on, in, and through** the *frail vessels* we are. In our failures and shortfalls, Lord, I ask that You **draw us to Yourself** and please *cut away* and completely destroy everything else that we **depend on** besides You."
 1. **REMEMBER:** Hidden weaknesses **help no one**. *Acknowledge* and *embrace* your shortcomings so that He might overcome them! ([2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#))

2. Protection in The **STORMS** ([Psalm 91:1-2](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Since the time of Noah, the **storms of life** have often been *catalysts* that cause people to seek God's powerful protection. The Lord is **sovereign**, having absolute *power* and *control* over the entire universe. It is entirely **within His means** to *quiet the winds* and *still the waves* of any situation that we face. It is also often within His perfect will to choose not to, and instead to bless those who **rest in Him** with *peace* amidst the chaos. Ask God to use the **turbulent times** we often face to *draw us to Himself*, pulling us under His mighty covering that we might find **rest** and **refuge**. ([Matthew 8:24-27](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, You are *King of kings* and *Lord of lords* and are completely **sovereign** over all creation and created beings. Thank You for the privilege of serving such a *great* and *awesome* God and for the honor of being called **Your child**. I ask today, God, that You would give us a longing to take shelter in Your *shade* that You might serve as **our shield** from all the rains of this life. May we rest in You, Lord, *abiding in You* as You abide in us and **when we drift** from You or **wander** from Your presence, send the storms. Deliver the *painful downpours* that **push us** to You, for that is where *true power* and *deliverance* is found.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Instead of *questioning why* the rain is falling, **seek shelter** in the One whom it obeys. (*Psalm 107:28-30*)

3. Victory in His **BATTLES** (*1 Samuel 17:45-47*)

- a. **NOTE:** The power of God is not merely *defensive*. In fact, God’s **true might** is best displayed through forward movement. Christ is not simply seeking **to maintain** the territory already won, but instead His aim is *to advance* the Kingdom of God by forcefully taking the ground previously belonging to **the Enemy**. We live in a *world at war*, and battles rage all around us. Too often though, even when we realize we are under attack, we end up **foolishly** attempting to fight back *on our own*. In prayer this week, ask God to pull us to Himself **through the attacks** we face so that we might *partner in, experience fully, and live out His victory!* (*Matthew 11:12; Proverbs 21:31*)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, thank You for fighting our battles **with us** and **for us**. Thank You for the *overwhelming victory* that is Yours and that You have given to us as Your children. Remind us, God, that **every conflict** we face is already *within Your hands* and train us to seek You as the blows begin to fly. In You alone **lies our victory**, Lord. *Pull us to Yourself* so that we might live in it this day. I lift up to You also, Father, those who are still fighting on **the losing side**. May they come to You and *receive eternal victory* through their surrender.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Fighting spiritual opponents *apart from God* is a sure way to end up **beaten, broken, and bare**. (*Acts 19:13-16*)

Questions for Reflection:

- What weakness have you been **hiding, ignoring, or excusing**?
 - Confession *invites healing* and allows for redemption. Turn to God **in your failing** so that He can *reveal His power* through your frailty.
- Have your “*why’s*” kept you from the “**who**” that truly matters?
 - Stop standing angrily in the rain, shaking your fist at God. Instead, come *under His wing* and embrace His **love** and **comfort**.
- Have you been **knocked down** because you *pridefully* tried to win on your own?
 - Remember who the battle **belongs to** and stop trying to take it on *by yourself*. When you are by God’s side every giant will fall.