

HUNGERING FOR GOD'S WORD WEEK 9

In seeking the Lord in what He would have me to write this week, the thought keeps coming to my mind that you are all women who want to know the Lord and His word in a deeper way. If you didn't you would not have come week after week, taking time from your busy schedules and lives to spend an evening away from home to hopefully learn more. It thrills my heart to see so many women hungering and thirsting for God and His word! That being said, I am not sure why I am being drawn to write on this subject matter, but I have to follow my Lead. Please study with an open mind and heart to hear what He may have specifically for you in His word. It may be for just one person, and if so, that is enough. I know for sure that His word does not return void when it goes out, (Isaiah 55:11) so in that promise I know His purpose in leading me to write about this subject will be accomplished. Let's get started!

“This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:19-21

When we came to know the Lord Jesus Christ in His forgiveness of our sins and His eternal salvation, soon thereafter an affection for the Word and its truth and a desire in our hearts to know God and obey Him began to stir. In fact, one of the strongest signs that one has come to know God in genuine salvation is a hunger for Him and His word. To put it in simple terms, do you remember when you fell in love for the first time? All you could think about was that boy! You wanted to be near him at all times, to get to know him in every way, to talk to him constantly. You liked what he liked, you wanted to do what he wanted to do. You just couldn't get enough of him! On a much deeper and life-changing scale, that passion for another is what one feels when he or she tastes the goodness of the Lord for the first time and experiences His pure and undefiled love and mercy. We just can't get enough of Him! A true conversion to the acceptance of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will be evidenced in our insatiable desire to know more of Him and His word.

Read: Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1; Psalm 143:6

What is the common theme of each of these verses? _____

Do you find that this same longing or need runs deep within your soul, so much so that you cannot help but “pant” for the One Who gives living water? _____

When a baby enters the world, it isn't long before its natural need kicks in to eat and drink. No one has to teach that baby to thirst and hunger for its mother's milk. Likewise, when one comes to Jesus and truly receives new life in Him he doesn't have to be taught to hunger for God and His Word. It is the natural impulse of new spiritual life.

Read John 8:31 What does Jesus tell us that a true disciple of His will do?

The Greek word for “abide” is *meno*, meaning to stay, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry.

Jesus tells us that if we are His disciples a sure sign of that relationship with Him is that we can't help but stay in His word. Do you sometimes have such sweet times with Him in prayer and study or reading of the Word that you just don't want to stop? You find yourself longing for the time you can get alone with Him again. You find yourself thinking of scriptures that He has taught you, or you find yourself making decisions based on what you have learned from His word. These are a part of that “abiding” in His word. It becomes a part of you; something you hunger and thirst for. It is a relationship that satisfies so deeply you want more and more.

Read Psalm 119: 1, 9-16. How can a young man cleanse his way? _____

One of the pieces of furniture in the Old Testament Tabernacle was called a bronze laver. (Exodus 30:17-21) It consisted of a huge upright bronze bowl filled with water, resting upon a pedestal. The priests would wash their hands and feet in this bowl before going into the tabernacle of meeting to make a burnt offering to the Lord. If they didn't wash in the laver, they would die. God's Word is the bronze laver we are cleansed by, for it has the power to cleanse. The Old Testament laver could only wash away the physical dirt from the priests, but the Scriptures have the ability to cleanse our moral filth.

Read I Peter 1:22-25 How do we purify our souls? _____

What are some of the areas that the Bible can cleanse/purify?

1. wrong thoughts- II Corinthians 10:5 Read and write the words. We are to take every thought _____ to the _____ of Christ,
2. fearful thoughts- Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my _____; Whom shall I _____? The Lord is the _____ of my life; Of whom shall I be _____?
3. wrong words James 1: 19-20; Psalm 119: 172 My _____ shall _____ of _____, For all Your _____ are _____.

God's word can keep us from wrong actions and bring success by reading and obeying its commands.

Read Joshua 1: 8 and write it in its entirety. _____

Now read it again out loud like you believe it!! What a promise! If we abide and obey, we will walk in the success of the Lord!

Need direction? Read Psalm 119:105

Your word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ to my path. Write in your own words what this scripture speaks to you.

Praise God we are not left to our own diligence and understanding in order to discern what God says in His word. God enables us by the indwelling of His Holy spirit to know and understand what He is teaching us.

Matthew 13:11 Jesus said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."(those who were not His children)

Jesus goes on to say, "Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." Matthew 13;16

Paul tells us that “ we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God----He who is Spiritual appraises all things.” I Corinthians 2:12, 15

True believers love God’s word and respond gladly to it. On the other hand, the one who does not believe His word, has no interest in hearing it, reading it, much less obeying it, does not belong to Him. It is the inner desire of the believer to know and obey God’s word; it is the desire of the unbeliever to disregard it and not obey it. There are those who will quote certain scriptures to support there belief system, using the scripture out of context and without true faith in it. There are those who will react to the Word with anger and cry “judgemental!” when faced with scripture that disagrees with their actions and beliefs. The religious Pharisees used the scriptures as a means of persecution for those who didn’t adhere to the letter of the law; they didn’t believe in the very Messiah that the word they studied prophesied. In the case of the Pharisees, as in the case of many of our day and time, they had no saving faith in Jesus Christ, but used the word to appear spiritual.

Read Jesus’ words to the Jews who rejected Jesus:

John 5:37-40 “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because He whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

Read and complete the words of Jesus that He spoke a short while later in John 6: 45.

“It is _____ in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of _____.’ Everyone who has _____ and _____ from the Father, comes to Me.”

Later, He spoke straight up to His enemies in John 8:37 “ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” V. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? (Write the answer He gives to His own question.) _____.”

Those who follow the enemy, who are without God, have no desire to live by the word of God. In fact, they live by the lies of the devil.

Complete v. 44 from Jesus' rebuke of the unsaved Jews.

"You are of *your* father the _____, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a _____ from the beginning, and does not stand in the _____, because there is no _____ in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own _____, for he is a liar and the father of it."

Belief in God's word goes hand in hand with belief in Him and His Son. One who loves the Lord will naturally have a desire to want to know Him deeper and more intimately through prayer and through His word. To believe in Him is to believe in His word. To disbelieve Him is to disbelieve His word. In Him is the whole truth. In the devil is nothing but lies. We who are in Him will naturally long to be with Him. If, because of circumstances, trials, worries and cares of the world, we find ourselves far away and empty, then that longing and emptiness will eventually drive us back to Him. His promises are true; His promises are life giving; the life He gives us is living water and will never run dry.

Read and write Matthew 5:6 _____

Read and write John 6: 35 _____

Read and write Revelation 7:16- 17 _____

Oh! What a Savior! In Him is all the fullness of life we could ever want! And after this life on earth is over, we have the promise of eternal life with Him in glory, to live in living fountains of water with no more tears! Because Jesus came that we might have life, and have it abundantly, He provides that living water through His word and Himself while we are still alive. We find that abundant, successful, joy-filled living by abiding in His word and in Him. Even though there will be hard commands and things He calls us to, He provides the way for us to do what He calls us to do. The book of James is one of those books, that at face value, seems impossible to obey and live out. The only way we can receive and act upon the words of James 1: 19-21, obviously is to receive Him as Lord and Savior and abide in Him and His word. If you sense a lack of desire to spend time with Him, ask Him to reveal to you where you are spiritually. If you know that you are

tucked up in Him in salvation and forgiveness, ask Him to show you what is keeping you from Him; ask Him to help you to hunger and thirst for him and His righteousness. I can promise you that He will give you that desire, for it is His desire to spend time with you, His daughter!

PLEASE READ AND WRITE THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 11:28-30

Jeremiah 33:3

Now that's THE DADDY you can count on!