



Devotional Study Guide Journal

January 23rd

Not Hungry, Not Thirsty, Not Desperate, So Thankful

As I sat in church one Sunday singing a song about hungering for God and begging God to fill me, the words “never hunger” kept coming to mind. I remember sitting there trying to remember verses on the topic and wondering if it was more than just a thought I was having, but perhaps God speaking directly to my heart.

“Is that in the Bible?” I asked myself.

I asked to borrow my husband’s Bible and looked through his concordance for the word “hunger”. Then I saw it: “never hunger”.

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall NEVER hunger, and he who believes in Me shall NEVER thirst.”

I sat stunned. After years of learning of God’s grace and of rejecting traditions that did not line up with Scripture, I was confronted once again with a tradition that is so deeply ingrained in Christian culture that it is what we call a sacred cow. I’d been taught and believed that I **needed** to “hunger and thirst after God”. This meant I needed to kindle a desire for God and the things of God, even to the point of desperation. So, singing a song about hungering or thirsting for God had never seemed odd for me. Those kind of songs made the whole congregation weep. How could that not be a good thing?

But there it was, not in black and white, but red letters...you know...the ones they put in red because Jesus Himself said them? Since then, my perspective on this topic has completely changed. No longer do I force myself to hunger and thirst for God. In fact, I now see the whole concept as an insult to what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. He **died** to give us His very LIFE. There is no need to hunger or thirst any longer. We have been FILLED. Not only are we filled, we are overflowing.

John 4:13-15

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him **will never thirst**. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a **fountain of water springing up into everlasting life**."*

¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said we will never hunger and never thirst again. Not only that, we would have so much water springing from us, it would overflow.

I'm sorry if I just killed a sacred cow of yours. In fact, I know that someone reading this is trying to justify the LIE that we as Christians are supposed to "cultivate" a hunger and thirst for God.

In a way, Christians do need to *cultivate* a hunger and thirst because we are not *supposed* to hunger and thirst. So we *have* to manufacture a hunger and thirst.

Hear this. You do not need to hunger and thirst after God. You already have Him living inside of you. His presence is continually with you. You don't need to fill up each day. You have a continual supply of LIVING water.

Now, go and enjoy what you've already been given...His very presence living in you. No reason to be hungry or thirsty. He has died and risen again and is living inside of you if you believe in Him. Quit seeking and enjoy that you have found.

Here is another truth that we have found, you do not need to be desperate for God either. This teaching came up a few decades ago, but Christians, like every other human being on earth, will go through times that look desperate, times that break their hearts and hurt more than any human being can hurt, but we are not ever desperate.

The word desperate means "without hope." How can those who serve "the God of hope" ever be desperate about anything? No matter how awful things look, no matter how desperate we might *feel*, He is there to do the impossible. We are never without hope.

Especially, NEVER are we desperate "for Him." We HAVE Him. He is our God. He is all-powerful. He will help us. We need not despair; no, not ever. Look to Jesus and enjoy the hope He continually gives.

