

Devotional 4: Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Supernatural Prayer

Foundational Text

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

— Matthew 5:6

What the Text Reveals

Jesus uses the two most primal human drives—hunger and thirst—to describe the condition of a heart pursuing God. In the ancient Near East, hunger and thirst were not mild discomfort; they were mortal emergencies. People died of thirst. Children starved. Jesus is describing not casual religious interest but survival-level desperation for God’s righteousness.

The object of this hunger matters immensely: righteousness. Not comfort. Not blessing. Not success. Not even revival itself. Righteousness—the character of God, the rule of God, the presence of God manifesting His perfect nature in and through His people. The hunger is for God Himself, expressed through His righteous character flooding human hearts and communities.

The promise is absolute: “they will be filled.” The Greek *chortasthesontai* originally described the fattening of animals for slaughter—complete, total satiation. God does not partially satisfy those who desperately seek Him. He fills them to overflowing. But the filling presupposes the hunger. Comfortable souls that desire God as one option among many never experience the filling reserved for the desperate.

Biblical Architecture

Psalm 42:1–2 embodies this beatitude in poetry: “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” The psalmist is not scheduling a quiet time. He is a hunted animal gasping for water. Prayer at this level is not discipline; it is desperation.

Psalm 63:1 intensifies the imagery: “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” David writes this from the wilderness—literally surrounded by desert, existentially surrounded by enemies—and his deepest cry is not for safety but for God.

John 7:37–38 records Jesus’s climactic invitation: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” The thirsty receive not just satisfaction but become sources of satisfaction for others. Personal filling becomes corporate overflow.

Core Thesis

Supernatural prayer flows from insatiable hunger for God Himself—not prayer as duty, but prayer as desperate pursuit. When believers hunger for righteousness more than comfort, security, or success, they pray with urgency that moves heaven. Revival prayer is born from revival hunger.

Revival Connection: Week 3 — Supernatural Prayer

Week 3 of Revival 2026 explores prayer not as religious obligation but as the natural expression of spiritual hunger. The biblical pattern is clear: those who hunger for righteousness pray differently than those who pray from habit or duty. Hannah prayed with such intensity that Eli mistook her for drunk. Elijah prayed until fire fell. Daniel prayed through twenty-one days of spiritual opposition. Jesus prayed until His sweat became like drops of blood.

The curriculum’s emphasis on the 6:1 ratio—eternal matters over earthly concerns—flows directly from this beatitude. Those who hunger for righteousness pray primarily for God’s character and kingdom to advance, not for personal comfort. Their prayers are weighted toward heaven because their hunger is weighted toward heaven.

The framework “Work for Revival like it all depends on you; Pray for Revival like it all depends on God” captures the tension embedded in this beatitude. Hunger drives action. Thirst creates urgency. But the filling comes from God alone. We do not produce righteousness by effort; we receive it by desperate pursuit of the One who possesses it.

Strategic Question

Does my prayer life reflect desperate hunger for God’s presence, or comfortable routine? Am I praying for God’s righteousness to flood my life, or merely asking Him to improve my circumstances?

Closing Prayer

God, create in us hunger that only You can satisfy. Let us thirst for Your presence more than success, comfort, or approval. Awaken desperate prayer that refuses to settle for spiritual mediocrity. Fill those who seek You with all Your fullness. Make us people who cannot live without You—who pursue Your righteousness with the urgency of the starving and the

desperation of the parched. Let rivers of living water flow from hearts that refuse to stop seeking until they are filled. Amen.

Scripture Treasury

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

— **Psalm 42:1–2**

“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.”

— **Psalm 63:1**

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

— **John 7:37–38**

“Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.”

— **Psalm 81:10**

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

— **Jeremiah 29:13**