

Being the Church
Winter 2025
Praying for Revival
February 15 - February 28



My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. John 10:27

Hunger for God

“A desire, hunger, or thirst for God leads to us seeking His face. And seeking God’s face implies two things: urgency and awe. When we seek, we leave no stone unturned to find what we desperately want.

And what we want fills us with awe, because it is the face of God - the mightiest, most glorious, and holiest Being in the universe. God desires that we seek His face more than His hand. When we seek His hand, we are after what He can do for us. It’s like a friend you only hear from when he needs something. But when we seek God’s face, we make it clear that we want the delight of His presence. We want to know His character. We seek Him because we love Him for Who he is.

As it turns out, when you seek only His hand, you miss out on His face. But when you seek first His face, you get His hand also. According to **Acts 17:26-28**, a desire for His presence and a delight in Who He is are conditions of heart that are precious to God.

Prayer Points

- Pray the Psalmist’s prayer in **Psalm 119:36** that God would give you a receptive heart
 - by opening your heart and mind to His word;
 - increasing your desire to study and apply His teachings;
 - igniting a stronger hunger for Him in you even on hard days.
- Pray through **Revelation 2:4,5a** that a hunger for God and a passion for His glory would return to the Church and St. Mark Lutheran Church.
- Pray that, according to **Jeremiah 24:7**, the masses seeking reassurance and joy elsewhere will hunger for God and seek Him.
- Pray that, like the first New Testament revival in **Acts 2:42-47**, the expressions of hunger and thirst for the presence of God in these current student revivals will be lasting and contagious and lead people inside and outside the Church to seek His face.

- Pray for the Church and St. Mark Lutheran Church to embody **2 Timothy 2:2**, ready to help seekers find the face of God and come into a strong daily relationship with Him.”¹

Developing a Spiritual Hunger for God nurtures a relationship with God.

Spiritual hunger is not a desire for more of God, but a deep yearning to know and be close to Him. In short, to have a relationship with Him. A longing to be transformed by His presence and to experience His love in an ever-deepening way.

The spiritual life is a dynamic process - a journey, not a measurable product. Walking in God’s presence, or “practicing his presence” requires both trusting and training.

Listed below are a couple of suggestions to cultivate spiritual hunger for God:

- Choose a dedicated time to spend time with God every day.
- Begin with prayer -
 - asking God to fill you with the Holy Spirit;
 - to increase your awareness of the Spirit’s presence in your life;
 - asking for guidance, wisdom, and discernment as you seek to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Develop spiritual disciplines:
 - Prayer
 - Read and meditate on passages in the Bible beginning those focused on the Holy Spirit, Acts 2 the Pentecost story or Jesus promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14-16.
 - Be open to surrendering your will to God’s will. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, emotions, and actions and to be open to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. A nudge to call or help someone, a conviction to repent of sin, or a sense of peace in a difficult situation.
 - Seek and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in the application of your spiritual gifts.
 - Cultivate a spirit of humility.
- Be persistent and patient: this is a lifelong journey. Be patient with yourself and trust God to work in you and change you through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you.

“When you draw near to God, he promises to draw near to you (James 4:8) This we pray for you, not just as something that happens occasionally, but throughout your days, every day, to that all of your life, even the most ordinary parts, become extraordinary because it is infused with his presence. And it is there, in his presence, that you’ll find fullness of joy, no matter what is going on in your life (Psalm 16:11).⁴

¹*Fanning the Flames of Revival, Participating in the Continues Activity of God, an IFA Prayer Guide.* IFAPray.org. p. 3.

²Ibid. p.1.

³Ibid. p.4.

⁴Boa, Kenneth and Abel, Jenny, *A Guide to Practicing God’s Presence, a Companion Guide to Life in the Presence of God.* Trinity Publishing House Inc., 2018.

