

• • TRANSCRIPT

• August 30th 2026 "Hungering And Thirsting For Christ"

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Yeah. Exercise, amen. Well, at this time, I'm just excited to have just a dear friend all these years, Brother Mike. He's been a blessing. And if you know him personally, you can tell he's got this desire, this love. And he's real, he's one of those that he lets you know exactly how he's feeling. If he's struggling or if he's on cloud nine. So, and God gave him such a gift to sing. And Brother Mike, come on up and bless us with this song. He'd even tell me what it was. The first time I came here, Pastor Barron said, in case you don't know, nothing good comes from Fall River, here it is.

It's been so long since I've been back here. Last time I was here Brother Baron and I and a friend of ours from camping went to the beef barn. And I blew my back out that morning. And I could barely walk. And we sat in these, you know, I swear they have pews over there because they weren't that comfortable. And, you know, Brother Baron's like me, he can talk, and we're talking outside, and I'm going to get me home and hang out. I was driving a school bus, actually. I went to the high school up here. I no longer drive a school bus. But, you know, I was thinking about that when Baron was talking, you know, listen all I am is a sinner saved by grace. Amen. 1996, my sister brought me to church, and I gave my life to the Lord. And I got to tell you, it's not always been smooth sailing, but I'm anchored. My life is anchored on a rock. It's called Jesus. And my wife and I just recently lost, just this weekend, a very dear friend of ours. She would. She would text us every day separately, but the same thing.

She would text us, and my wife's phone would go off, and mine would go off, or vice versa. A couple seconds later, we know that Raphael's body texting us. This dear saint texted over 240 some odd people every single day. And she just went home to be with the Lord. And we're going to miss those texts. Amen. Those simple texts, that was her ministry, and that simple text brought me up with some stuff. Just for a simple text, just the word of God every day, the word of God. And when I chose the song, this and I didn't realize it, I thought he was sick. Last text we got was on my birthday last Saturday. Maybe that's the birthday you were trying to think of. Last Saturday was mine. That's in the mirror. So, you know, God put the songs in our hearts, and God put this song in my heart. I'm thinking about all the people that we have lost in our lives. My wife's dad, our dear son, 26 years ago, at 12 weeks of life. And then I think about all these people. When I get to heaven one day, I want meet all those people, but I want to see Jesus.

And I hope he says, well, well done. I don't know if I'm going to get through this. And that's the name of the song. It's called Face to Face. " And it's not playing. It's a live song. AUDIO OUT the demon was in there. It was making all kind of weird noises. Well, it was playing earlier, so let me just see what's going on here. I could have-- maybe I won't say you've got it, but it's a message that you need to get. INAUDIBLE INAUDIBLE Yeah, the devil's always in the detail. But that's okay. Because greater is he that's in me than he does it. Well, let me make sure this. Well, it's 11 11. Let me just make sure my

phone is not hooked up to Bluetooth. That would be the problem. Sorry. Talking amongst yourselves. Oh, I do want to say I have my new scheduled lung cancer surgery May 5th. May 5th. So please, I mean. May 5th. That's my anniversary, brother. November 5th. I'm sorry that's funny. November fifth. This doesn't work, I'll just do it on my phone. Yeah, it's not going to work. Yeah, it was working earlier. Technology. See if the things shut off. Well, no, it's not. See how Satan works even on our system? It's playing.

It's just not coming out of that box. That's okay. You guys are gonna be all excited when I finally get this thing to go. You are not a. Yeah, maybe you could. Stream it from your phone, brother. Yeah. So I think it's something. So it could be like a. It could be like something taking on something. You got a fire station or a police station nearby somewhere at all? Yeah. Let me see if I can play it on my phone. It's not going to play over there, so. Just put the phone right in the mic. You want a microphone? Yeah.

Maybe I can do that. Test one, two. Brother Mike, we'll just have to test to see if he's going to play. It's a test to see this, Brother Mike. Mike, we'll do it this way. Oh, I'm a traveler far from home. I get along. I get lost. But I press on. There's a mansion in the streets of gold where I belong. There's a day when it's come. It's coming soon where the old will be made new and heaven's glory shines like the morning before our eyes. When we are where we are, see Jesus. No more sickness, no more madness, no more pain. Where we are. See Jesus. Face to face. And we will see the angels' voices. There will be a great rejoicing, holy, holy, worthy, worthy. Yes, sir. Thank you. Where we are, see Jesus bells ringing) See Jesus Face to face bells ringing) This is a time where it's a good thing I have my cell phone. Audience applauding) what a song, amen. Brother Mike, thank you. For that. You know. So many that's gone ahead of us, isn't it true? Recently, every now and then, I'll grab my phone and I'm ready to call Ken. And I think about what he's doing. He's writing a song. I mean, writing an article up there with Jesus. Amen. Well, if you have your Bibles, if you could please turn to Psalm, Psalm chapter 42. And since the middle of this week.

I've been having this conversation. This psalm in my head. This Psalm in my head. Met a gentleman, was talking to a gentleman, and we had a good talk. Boy, what a good talk I had with him. And in the end he said, he said, Pray for me." Says, I've got everything going in my life. Beautiful, loving wife. Work's going good. But there was something missing. Something he couldn't put his finger on. But I knew exactly what he was thinking of, what he was feeling. Because that was me so many years ago in 1997. So, here in Psalm 42, I'm going to start in verse 1.

The Bible says if you could stand please The Bible says as the hot painted after the soul after excuse me, let me say that again as the painted after the waters Brooks So panted my soul after Theo God My soul thirsted for God for the Living God when shall I come come and appear before God. My tears have been my meat day and night while they continually say unto me, where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me. For I had gone with the multitude. I went with them to the house of God with the voice of joy and praise with a multitude that kept holy day.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. Let's pray. Father, we thank you. What a blessing to be here in the house of the Lord in this meeting house. And Father, I ask you. That you would do a work that only you could do. Father, I ask you to use me in a mighty way. And Father, help us never, never to forget how great you are and how much you satisfy the soul. I ask you now, Lord, that you would help us not to leave this place the same way as we came in. And this I pray in Jesus' name amen. Well, you can be seated at this time. You know, as you look at this psalm, in my title it says, Those who put this together with the sons of Koa. " But I believe, in this context, I've feel that was what wrote this psalm. And I believe it was the time when he had a run from the coup that his son Absalom brought to the kingdom. When David had to run from his throne, he had to run to the wilderness.

And he was far away from the temple well, the tabernacle in the congregation. And I believe. He began to remember when he was just a little shepherd boy. I believe in the time when he was telling the sheep how he has such a connection with God. I believe as he looked at this, he would see a deer looking for water in a dry place. And I think about this and when you read this again, as a heart panted after the water brooks, so panted my soul after thee, oh God. And when we look at this, take the picture of a deer, a deer only pants when it's dehydrated, when it's lacking water and its throat is Parched, and the deer becomes consumed with a single focus to finding running water. But I don't believe it's not a pond, a puddle with muddy, and I think he was looking for something refreshing.

So in Psalm 42, 1 through 5, we hear the cry of a soul. Two, one through five, we cry of a soul that knows nothing that can fill the emptiness within. And I believe we've all been there. I believe this speaks to those who are saved and those who are not. And this is not a hungry for relief, but a hunger for the living God. Psalm writes, I like to call it a God void. Amen. He's the only one able to satisfy the deep drought within a human heart. You know, we see so many people after so many things in the world.

I've so many things in the world when I was young, and I had this emptiness in my heart, and I couldn't put my faith in it. I believe those who do not know the Lord have that same feeling when they stop and they start to meditate on their life. And then I believe it's those who have kind of drifted away from their intimate relationship with God. So this is speaking not only to the churchgoer goer, but also the lost one, the one who hasn't come to Christ. So as I was looking at this, I began to think about how to hunger and thirst for God.

That go to church every Sunday, and that's all they have. That's their whole spiritual worship is coming to church one day a week. That's not enough. So as we look to see hunger and thirst, audio cuts out) the taste, that spirit, that feeling that this was David while he was on the run so how to hunger and thirst for God number one recognize your deepest need look again where it says in some thirsted for God for the living God when shall I come and appear before God Here's one who's been longing. The silence begins with an awareness. I ask you today, do you have an awareness that your flame has kind of gone out or close to going out? And you're not saying you haven't trusted Christ, but has God Been drawing you to Himself? Is that hug starting to grow that you want more of Him? That you know that you don't

have Him? Well, this is for you too. The darkness begins with an awareness. He knows what He truly needs, and it's God Himself. It begins when you stop realizing that lesser things can satisfy. Amen? When you realize that going to those water holes doesn't do it anymore.

When you go down those dark and sinful roads and trying to find satisfaction, that doesn't work anymore. When you come to a point, the only thing that you can do is seek and thirst and hunger for God. That's where God wants everyone to be. It's the soul's cry for God to do in us what we could never do on our own. Turn me to Psalm sixty three. What it says in Psalm sixty three starts out, verse one. Psalm... Verse 1, Psalm 63, yeah, 63 verse 1. It says, O God, thou art my God. Early will I seek thee. My soul thirsteth for thee. longeth for thee.

In a dry and thirsty land where no water is. Can you feel the cry? This Psalm is recognizing it's only God that can satisfy. This verse captures the ache of every human heart I believe, whether recognized or not. And I know for a fact, that I was dealing with This before I got saved. I had everything going on. I really can't say I had a good job. I went to a job where it was a battle. Amen. The dying man's den. Nobody understands what prison is like until you work there. They're evil there, but yet there's goodness there.

I can't say it was all bad, but I had everything going good in my life. And that's when I began to feel and to recognize that there was an ache in my heart. There was a void in my heart. With everything I tried, I could not feel it. Not a thirst for relief, but a thirst for the living. God. He's the only one who can quench the deep drought in that human heart. Amen. Psalm going back to Psalm 42. And look what he says in Psalm 42, verse 2. Again, it says, My soul thirsted for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear? Before God? So, Psalm 42 2 describes the believer's experience when God feels distant, or there's a renewed desire for God. Is that what's happening with you? Because sometimes that happens. You could be going to church, reading your Bible a little bit. When a church, reading your Bible, you could kind of be just throwing up those quick prayers instead of spending time with God. And now you find yourself thirsting, hungering. So this Psalm 42, 2, where it says, My soul thirsted for God, for the living God. This is the Living God is this is the experience when God feels distant. Now, you know, it's amazing how this, this, uh, a couple weeks ago when I preached that sermon on surrender. Amen. Surrendered, Amen. But here we find: How do we hunger? How do we pursue the only source that satisfies? Look again in Psalm 42, too. He's saying he knows where the source is. It's God. It's God Almighty. We could get distracted sometimes. Things can we can replace something else that's really mean when you look at eternity. The psalmist is not, he's not seeking for relief or blessings or spiritual feelings.

He wants the living God, the God who speaks and satisfies his true needs. Is that what you're looking for? Do you realize that's what you're looking for? Amen. Psalm 36, verse 1, the Bible says, They shall be abundantly satisfied. And that's the magic of the rich plan. For with thee is the fountain of life. And what's he saying here? Remember when Jesus was sitting at the well? Remember in the Bible, Jesus

was sitting at the well? He had sent his disciples off. He's sitting at the well. Why? Because he wants to meet the woman at the well who, in her life, she's at a point where she's thirsting for something.

She's had all the men she wanted. She's had everything. Now she's alone. Even the women, are away. That's what all of us are. That's why she's all alone in the middle of the day. Usually it's in the morning that the women gather around the well and they open the water up to the family. It's almost like the little women's gathering. Amen? But she's alone. And there's an ache in her heart. There's a thirst in her heart that no one can satisfy. And she finds Jesus. First of all, she can't believe that Jesus would actually talk to her, her being a Samaritan woman. So she's shocked that her rabbi, a teacher, would even give her the time of day. But yet, that's exactly what Christ is looking for. And what does he say? I'm the one that can give you living water. Amen. Hunger grows when you pursue God Himself. It's not religion, it's not worldly pleasures, it's a relationship with God Himself. And once you experience it, and He fills your every need and desire, and He knows. Two. And he knows you are. Listen, I'm here to tell you that's the relationship everyone's looking for.

It's only found in Jesus. I love what Paul says with me to the book of Philippians. Philippians. Be in chapter three. He would have said he had, he was taught by Gamaliel, one of the greatest rabbis of all time, at that when he was living. He had everything as a Jew, and he called. But loss for the knowledge of Christ, my Lord, for suffer loss of all things and do come to them, but that they may win Christ. And it goes on and be righteousness, but which is. The right which is of God by faith.

So he looked at everything he had and he counted it. And he says that famous, he says that I am. Amen. Do you know Christ today is to develop a holy desire with spiritual habits. You know, it's-- think of that. You and I today, we could go to church with our faith, look at-- smelling our best, even though some holy words but listen are you living a life that's seeking after the righteousness of God? Are you holy as he is holy? Is that righteousness that comes from God? Are you seeking to live for him? Well, there's only one way to do that is to develop spiritual habits. Look again at Psalm 11. It says, my soul is thirsty for the living God, when shall I come and appear before God?" The Psalmist is not passive here. He's assertive, he's intentional. You have to be intentional. Don't think you're just pulling on your to your bed. You come, you might hear a good sermon, and that's it. It's more the God hunger to be like him, to love like him. The hunger grows when you feed your soul with scripture. Listen. Jesus said that in Matthew 44 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. You can have feast. What does it say in 1 Peter 2.

Verse 2? It's new. Verse 2. Newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the Lord that they may grow thereby. I'm here to tell you the more you get into the Word of God, the more your spirit starts hungering and thirsting after the things of God. You know, you have a milky way. All those peanut butter cups. Yeah, brother. I'm right with you. On my Scooby. Don't tell my. When I go to the store, that's one of the things I'm looking around for. Oh, there they are. That's my Scooby snap. Boom. I'm telling you, if you go and just sugar candy. I'm not. Just sugar candy. You know what happens when you start eating food, meat, and good food on a daily basis? Listen.

That nourishes your body. You're going to go through that big, quick high because of the sugar and then have a crash. Listen, God wants his people to nourish on his word daily. What's the last time you open your Bible? Today is there only on? There's a lady a young lady. So she hears my preaching she's on the edge of her seat Amen, and now she's reading her Bible. She's reading and you can see there's more Hunger in her for God. Just thank the Lord for that. Amen. I wish some of you old saints would have that fire. And that excitement back in your Christian walk instead of the Christian. There's more to it than this hunger grows when you seek God in prayer. How do you live a life? Oh, he's not giving me my red Maserati yet. I'm still praying for it. Well, what about the lost family member? The lost soul? Your lost neighbor? When you get close to God. His desires start to come out of your pores. You begin to hurt and ache for the things that he You begin to hate the things that he hates. And you begin to love the things that he wants. I'm here to tell you you need to develop a holy desire with spiritual habits, reading the Word of God, and on your knees. Listen.

This is a staple of a Christian walk. Younger grows with practice, repentance. Would I? What I mean is to constantly keep your account clean with God. Amen. I know so many people all of a sudden they get caught up in a sin. They put their Bible down. They stop reading. They stop avoiding the brothers and sisters in Christ. They start coming to church. Why? Because they feel they're not worthy. Listen, you need to do is you need a clear inventory of your life and you know I'm a part I I feel distant from you and you need to say, Lord, show me my heart where I've gone."

God and he'll point it out. And when he points it out, say, agree with him, say, Yes, Lord, forgive me. Amen. Sin dulls your appetite for him. You know that. Repentance sharpens it. And we forget that. When sin is tolerated, the conscience grows quiet, the heart grows cold. And the soul loses its taste for God. Listen, I'm trying to help you. This is what I need too. Because we all can get in a place where we're distant and he wants the thirst and hunger for religion. This is a relationship with the Creator God who changed you, who loves you, who does. But yet we come with this mediocre Christianity. We come where we just come to church. If we, yeah, I think I'll go to church today. Here we find David. He's been taken from his throne. He's running in the woods. And he realizes he's far from God. And he's crying out loud cried out, Listen. Look what he said. My soul thirsted for God, for the living God. You know, sin keeps you from the word, and the word will keep you from sin. I said that how many times before? Isn't it true?

Look at David. Psalm 51. Look at David. It's hot. This is after he said Look at David, his heart. This is after he sinned with Beth. To the front line to die. And now he's exposed by the prophet. And he, Psalm 51, and he goes through the whole thing. Verse 10. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. And I just want to stop there. When he says take the Holy Spirit from me, before Christ went to the cross, see in the Old Testament, it would come upon certain people, maybe a prophet. A king, you could see, read the Bible, the Holy Spirit would come temporarily upon people to get power to do what God's called them to do. Today we have the Holy Spirit in us.

Amen? So don't mess that up when you read that. But look what he says again in verse 11 Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Verse 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit. You know, how many times you walk around and you see Christians? You know, I remember Christians, they were on fire for Jesus. They had this joy, this excitement. You would hear them talking and there was this joy. And then years later what happens? That joy starts to happen. The coldness starts on their heart. They walk around in their bitter. What happened? Well, listen, I don't want any of you to have that. I want to see you hungering and thirsting after God. And you have to keep your accounts clean with Him or He'll be distant. Raymond. Be distant. Amen. And my last one is trust God to satisfy your hunger. Turn back to Psalm 42. Look in Psalm 42. Look what it says in verse 8. It says, Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime. And in the night his song shall be with me and my prayer unto the God of my life See We find him Thurston and hungering at the beginning like a deer Looking for running water.

The Bible says living water, but he talking about running water like a stream something that. Something only God can do this, but he comes trust that it's only God that will satisfy his hunger. The psalmist is longing, his long is not hopelessness. God always meets the soul that thirsts for him. Do you understand that? You know, I always look at God. Listen, here's God in me. Way over here. I'm out of the way. And you know what? God's still there. He never moved. It was my heart that did. And I'm here to tell you if you if you've moved away from God and you're beginning to recognize the distance between you and God there's something It's up to you to get to a place where you thought the thirst and hunger for him again and that comes with sweet surrender and knowing what he's done for you, knowing who...

And then come. Come back. Come back to him. I like what it says in Jeremiah chapter 29. Verse 13. And this is God speaking to his people. He says, Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with your whole heart. Amen. God is not found casually or by accident. He reveals himself to those who pursue him with an undivided wholehearted desire. If you're here today, all I need to say is God, please help me to have that desire back for you. If you're here, you Never trusted Christ. I'm here to tell you you're only a simple prayer away when you recognize who Jesus is. He's the Messiah, He's God that.

Walked in flesh and then went for a cross and died for your sin. And he woke, he rose from the dead three days later and he bodily went back to heaven. He's sitting at the right hand of the Father, he's waiting for you to be a whosoever. Romans chapter 10, verse 13 says, for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Are you hungering, thirsting for Him? Because He'll meet your need and He'll give you the gift of eternal life. Your heart is fully engaged, seeking God above comfort, above convenience, above distraction.

When you realize He's the only thing that you have that can satisfy, will you? One scripture says, and I'm going to end with this scripture Psalm 34, verse 8. The Bible says, Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man. That trusts in him. You know, when I recognize that I'm a sinner, I couldn't and didn't deserve heaven. But when I came to the end of myself, when the void in my heart was too

great, when my eyes and my focus and my heart was only on God, God, I don't But then when I recognize how much He loved me, he laid on that cross 2000 years ago. He was looking into the future, the day, August 13th, 1997, when I would bow my heart and my knee to him and say, God, I don't know what I'm doing, but Jesus, I need you.

Forgive me, a sinner. I believe you died for my sin. And I ask you to save me. And he saved me, and I became a whosoever. And I'm here to tell you, as my brother says, it hasn't been easy, it's not all easy, but I know when I get far away from him, I can feel the distance, and I know I need to be closer to him. And today there might be one who's never trusted him as Lord and Savior. I'm here to be me. It's not about religion, it's about seeking and accepting and realizing it's only Jesus that can forgive you.

Jesus said in John 14. 6, I am the way, the truth, the life. No man comes to the Father but by me. And I'm here to tell you, He don't want you. He wants your heart. Are you willing to give it? Are you willing to say, Here am I, Lord? I give my all. Amen. There's a Gesture. I don't even know if it's for the deaf, but it's this. And that's saying, I give my all to you, Lord. Will you do that? We thank you. Father, that person who Spoken to somebody that person who who feels the voice in their life they're at the end of their sin they're at the end of all those things that they're trying to have satisfy them and father they realize it's only you they realize it's only the lord jesus that can give them eternal life and the joy. And the peace father i ask you now you would use this message for that sake. For that churchgoer who has a mediocre Christian walk, who only comes to church to get filled with a sermon and then goes back into the world. Father, Father, help that person. Help them to know the true meaning, the true desire, the true satisfaction is only in Jesus.

Father, I pray that you would help all of us who've walked or drifted away from you, Father, to come back. Father, only you can do the work that we can't do. Restore the joy that we had when we were just saved. Forgiven. And excited about Jesus. Father, restore that back. Use this church in a mighty way. But Father, I just pray that you would break us. Break us. And may you start with me. In Jesus' name, amen.