

to Him who is able  
to do immeasurably

# more than

## A Message from Monte

Thanks for joining us in studying the Bible and praying about the More Than initiative!

This prayer and devotional guide is designed to be used this week, as we continue to seek God's will in our hearts and in our homes. This week, we will center our thoughts on having a **holy hunger**.

### Day 1 - Psalm 42:1 "My soul pants for you, O God!"

The psalmist perfectly described what it feels like to hunger for the presence of the Father. Just as we depend on food and water to nourish our physical bodies, we need spiritual food and drink to nourish our souls. There are many references in scripture that compare God's Word to food and water. In John 6:35, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." As believers, we know that Jesus is God's Word made flesh (John 1:14). If He tells us that He is the Bread of Life, then we must understand that it is by His Word that we are nourished! Spending time reading, studying, meditating on the Word is the way we allow Him to satisfy this holy hunger.

*Pray that God will give us a hunger and thirst for His Word and His presence, so that we will be able to discern His perfect will for our lives. (Romans 12:2)*

### Day 2 - Proverbs 16:26 "The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on."

Hunger can certainly be a great motivator! An empty belly drives the worker to get the job done as soon as possible, and make his way home for the supper he's hoping is waiting there. In a similar way, a hunger for spending time with God can urge us to schedule time for prayer and Bible reading, and to be consistent with it. The paradox is that the more He feeds us with His Word, the greater our hunger to know Him grows! Deuteronomy 8:3 reminds us that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

*Pray for a growing and irresistible hunger that urges us to spend time with the Lord in prayer and in His Word, to nourish us and lead us to truth and life.*

### **Day 3 - Philippians 3:10 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...”**

As Paul wrote this letter, he was imprisoned in Rome. He must have had much on his mind, but his overriding thought arose from his hunger to know Christ. He had spent years following Jesus, preaching and teaching about Him, suffering for the gospel, pouring out his life on Christ’s behalf, yet the hunger inside him still drove him on. “Not that I have already attained it,” he writes in the first part of verse 12. Even after nearly thirty years of living out the calling of an apostle, Paul still hungered after an intimate relationship with his Lord.

*Pray that we, like Paul, will never lose our appetite for intimacy with our Savior, and that it will drive us to know Him and to seek His face daily. Let us boldly ask Him to draw us closer to Him each day.*

### **Day 4 - Philippians 3:13-14 “This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

This one thing! Paul is single-minded in his determination to finish strong! He’s forgetting the past- its failures and its successes- and his appetite is urging him on. He presses on toward his goal, being focused on the prize, and being driven by his hunger for the joy that he knows lies ahead.

*Pray that we will not be hampered by our fears or our failures as we strive for the goal of knowing Christ and His power, yielding to His upward call. May we persevere as Paul did, faithful to the end.*

### **Day 5 - 1 Timothy 6:11 “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.”**

As we seek to know Jesus, driven by a Godly hunger, we can pursue those characteristics He demonstrated as He walked among us. Paul cautions his young friend Timothy to avoid the “counterfeit appetites” that surrounded him in the culture; in fact, he was admonished to flee from them! Instead, Paul advised Timothy to develop a hunger for Christ-like traits.

*Pray that we will recognize those imposters that threaten to pull us away from the path to our goal and our prize, and that our eyes and our hearts will remain focused on the One Who loves us and calls us to Him. Pray that He will reveal Himself and His will for each one of us.*