

Growing in Hunger

Spiritual hunger brings us to Jesus for living water. As we continually yield to the Holy Spirit, God transforms the heart from the inside out and conforms our lives to the image of His Son.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
Growing in Hunger	Pastor Shane Schmidt
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Sunday, January 18, 2026	John 7:37-39 ; Ephesians 5:15-20

TOPICS [Spiritual Hunger](#) | [Presence](#) | [Transformation](#) | [Filled with the Spirit](#) | [Consecration](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 Hosting God's presence begins with a responsive heart.

- A life that welcomes God listens quickly, responds willingly, and values His agenda above a familiar program. ([John 14:23](#))
- The heart must be guarded diligently because the issues and springs of life flow from it. ([Proverbs 4:23](#))
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit turns worship from a routine into cooperation with what God is doing. ([Romans 8:14](#))

"Being sensitive. Being quick to listen. Quick to respond in your heart."

STUDY [John 14:23](#); [Proverbs 4:23](#); [Romans 8:14](#)

02 God's presence produces heart transformation, not behavior modification.

- External restraint may contain conduct for a time, but Christ changes the source from which a life is lived. ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- As believers behold the Lord, the Spirit transforms them into His image from glory to glory. ([2 Corinthians 3:18](#))
- A renewed mind allows the inward work of God to reshape choices, desires, and patterns of life. ([Romans 12:2](#))

"We don't want behavior modification. We want heart transformation."

STUDY [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [Romans 12:2](#)

03 God's promises invite us to participate in His life and nature.

- Divine power has given believers what pertains to life and godliness through knowing the One who called them. ([2 Peter 1:2-3](#))
- God's great and precious promises make it possible to become partakers of the divine nature. ([2 Peter 1:4](#))
- This life is received in relationship with Jesus, not manufactured by religious effort or personal willpower. ([John 10:10](#))

"God wants you to be a partaker of His very nature."

STUDY [2 Peter 1:2-4](#); [John 10:10](#)

04 Hunger and thirst bring us to Jesus for living water.

- Jesus invites anyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink. ([John 7:37](#))
- Those who believe in Him receive the promise of rivers of living water flowing from within by the Spirit. ([John 7:38-39](#))
- What begins as a drink becomes an enduring spring of life rather than a momentary religious experience. ([John 4:13-14](#))

"Your hunger and your thirst will determine how far and how deep you go."

STUDY [John 7:37-39](#); [John 4:13-14](#)

05 Continual filling is cultivated through intentional spiritual practice.

- Believers are told to walk carefully and purposefully, redeeming the time rather than drifting through their days. ([Ephesians 5:15-17](#))
- Being filled with the Spirit is presented as an ongoing way of life, not an isolated Sunday experience. ([Ephesians 5:18](#))
- Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, worship, and thanksgiving help keep the heart turned toward God. ([Ephesians 5:19-20](#))
- Intentional pursuit makes room for God's Word and Spirit to keep reshaping the inner person. ([Colossians 3:16](#))

"This is talking about a daily lifestyle—that you will be being filled with the Spirit."

STUDY [Ephesians 5:15-20](#); [Colossians 3:16](#)

06 Spiritual hunger keeps transformation moving toward the image of Jesus.

- God's purpose is that believers be conformed to the image of His Son. ([Romans 8:28-29](#))
- The Spirit strengthens the inner person so Christ may dwell in the heart through faith. ([Ephesians 3:14-17](#))
- Knowing Christ's love leads toward being filled with all the fullness of God. ([Ephesians 3:18-19](#))

"I want to be more like Jesus."

STUDY [Romans 8:28-29](#); [Ephesians 3:14-19](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

[John 14:23](#)

[Proverbs 4:23](#)

[Romans 8:14](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

[2 Corinthians 3:18](#)

[Romans 12:2](#)

[2 Peter 1:2-4](#)

[John 10:10](#)

[John 7:37-39](#)

[John 4:13-14](#)

[Ephesians 5:15-20](#)

[Colossians 3:16](#)

[Romans 8:28-29](#)

[Ephesians 3:14-19](#)

[Ephesians 1:4-5](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

[Romans 10:9](#)

How will you put the Word into practice?

Where have you settled for managing behavior when God wants to transform the desires of your heart?

What distraction or competing appetite has been dulling your hunger and thirst for God?

Which daily practice will help you remain continually filled with the Spirit this week?

How can you respond more quickly and humbly when the Holy Spirit prompts you in worship or daily life?
