



I AM (Part 4) - “The Work God Requires”

John 6:35 NIV

35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:48-51 NIV

48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever (unto the age). This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:56-58 NIV

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever (unto the age).”

John 6:26-29 NIV

26 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

28 Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

29 Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Key Points

- *Reorientation requires disruption. The way of Jesus brings a new path.*
- *Trust is the response to truth.*
- *Christ is the only foundation upon which we can experience the fullness of what it means to be human.*
- *God’s Kingdom points us toward the generosity and abundance that reside under the rule of God’s love.*
- *We default to a transactional approach to everything.*
- *The fact that we will need to eat doesn’t mean that we live in ‘hunger’; it means we’re dependent.*
- *The work of God is to see something in a way that makes us willing to arrange our lives around it.*
- *We think believing should come naturally, but believing takes work.*
- *We don’t need evidence to be certain; we need the faith to trust the truth.*
- *The work of believing looks like eating and drinking.*

READ

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- Reflect on Jesus' statement in John 6:35 that he is the bread of life. What does this metaphor mean to you personally? How does it relate to your spiritual journey or understanding of faith?
- In John 6:48-51, Jesus compares himself to the manna in the wilderness. Why do you think he emphasizes that those who ate the manna still died, while those who eat the bread of life will live forever? What significance does this hold for our understanding of Jesus' identity and his role in our lives?
- Discuss the concept of eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood as mentioned in John 6:56-58. How does this symbolism connect with the idea of remaining in Jesus and having eternal life?
- Jesus rebukes the people in John 6:26-29 for seeking him only for physical sustenance rather than spiritual nourishment. How can we guard against a similar attitude in our own lives?
- Jesus defines the work of God as believing in him (John 6:29). What implications does this have for our understanding of salvation and our relationship with God? How does it shape our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and do the works God requires?

REFLECT

- Christ is the only foundation upon which we can experience the fullness of what it means to be human. Do you agree with this statement? What makes you answer in the way you do?
- How does the analogy of eating and drinking apply to the work of believing? What similarities do you see between physical nourishment and spiritual sustenance?

RESPOND

- How can we discern the work of God in our lives? What does it mean to arrange our lives around something we see as from God?
- Reflect on the notion that believing takes work. What kind of work is required for belief?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.