

The Bread of Life

Are you named after someone famous or maybe someone in your family? Maybe you were given a nickname by friends or a name you acquired because of certain things in your life. We see many times in scripture that a name or name change carried with it a prophetic destiny.

Moses had a conversation with God who was calling him to be the deliverer of his people out of Egypt. He asked the voice from the burning bush “who am I to...” but the more intriguing question Moses asked as he looked forward knowing his people would ask, who sent him. We’re familiar with the passage as God says, “I am who I am”.

God is saying, “I am”, which tells us “we/you are not”. He is God and we are not, he is sovereign we are not, he is in control we are not, he is the center of everything we are not, he is holding everything together, we are not, etc.

[Louie Giglio](#)

“I am not but I know I AM”

“God is more massive than our wildest imagination, He is bigger than the biggest words that we have to describe Him. He is doing good today, He is sustaining galaxies, holding every star in place, stewarding the seemingly chaotic events of the earth to His conclusion within His story.

He is constant, He blinks and a lifetime comes and goes...to Him one day is like a 1,000 years and 1,000 years like one day. All of human history could be written on one of His fingernails with room left over.

God is doing well today ‘thank you.’ He has no dilemmas, no quandaries, no counselors, no shortages, no rivals, no fears, no cracks, and no worries. He is self-existent, self-contained, self-perpetuated, self-powered and self-aware. In other words, He is God and He knows it. After an eternity of being God, He shows no signs of wear and tear.

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He has no needs; his accounts are in the black. He is the owner, not to mention the creator of all the worlds' wealth and treasure. He owns the gold and the silver and the trees we print our money on. He owns the cattle on a 1,000 hills and all the hills the cattle are standing on. He holds the patent on the skies above not to mention the earth, the seas and their depths below, the breeze, the colors of the sunset and every flowering thing. They are his invention, his design and his idea.

He does whatever He wants, His purpose are sure, there is no stopping Him, no containing him, no refuting him, no cutting him off at the pass, no short-circuiting his agenda, God is in control, He sends forth lightening from His storehouse, He breathes out the wind, the water the earth, he raises up rulers, directs the course of nations, he births life, he ordains death, and in the midst of it all He still has time to be intimately acquainted with the everyday affairs of everyone on the planet.

He knows everything about everything and everyone. His eyes race back and forth across the cosmos faster than we can scan the words on a page. There is not a bird flying through the air or perched on a branch that escapes his field of vision.

He could start with Adam and name every man, woman and child who has ever lived describing every detail about each one. To him, pitch darkness and mid-day are one in the same. Nothing is hidden from him and he wrestles with no mysteries. He doesn't need to wait for a polygraph machine to decipher truth, he sees clearly, he comprehends all he sees, he has never known what it is to have a teacher, a role model, an advisor, a therapist, a loan officer, an adjuster, a Dr., a mother or a Pastor.

God's rule and reign are unrivaled in history and eternity and he sits on an everlasting throne and his kingdom has no end. Little gods abound but he alone made the heavens and the earth. He has never feared a power struggle or a hostile take over. He doesn't have to watch his back, he has no equal, no peer, no competition."

It makes perfect sense that He is God and I am not!

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." 13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:1-14)

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Throughout the Old Testament, God tells us who he is, in the New Testament we see who he is through Jesus, who has the "name above all names", the "I am".

"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" 58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds." (John 8:56-59)

Another way we learn about God is in what he is called. An example might be he is my "rock", "wind", "father", "fortress", etc. In this next passage we learn about Jesus through this interaction with those around him and how he describes himself.

"25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" 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." 30 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 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. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

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At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" ⁴³ "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes **has eternal life**. 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. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 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." ⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" ⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." **(John 6:25-59)**

Bread was a very important and essential part of survival for the people of that day. Jesus understood this but he wanted to address a deeper hunger. Let's look at four of those areas:

Hunger exists in many forms:

- **Hunger for Power: We want a King**

- **Hunger for Power: *We want a King***

“After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.” (6:14-15)

- **Hunger for Experience: *We want a miracle***

“So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?”³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” (6:30)

Some that were present felt like, “prove it”; we don’t believe you, show us something!

- **Hunger for Satisfaction: *We want food***

³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” (6:31)

Jesus was aware that some that were following him because they wanted more food. They were looking toward their next meal but Jesus was pointing to a “bread” that was much more important and eternal.

- **Hunger for Rules: *We want to be right***

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

Some in the crowd wanted to be right or righteous through their actions or keeping certain rules and regulations. Jesus was talking about a life that is found in the Greek word “Zoe”.

Zoe (life) = *The uncreated life of God, the divine nature of God in Christ and in us.*

The Bread of Jesus is a Gift:

*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.” (:27)*

This gift is available to everyone, but it must be received and taken.

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This gift is available to everyone, but it must be received and taken.

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

The Bread of Jesus Satisfies our hunger at the deepest levels:

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.” (:35)

The Bread of Jesus must be appropriated (received and eaten)

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.” (6:53-56)

President Andrew Jackson pardoned a man from the death penalty he refused the pardon. This case was heard all in the Supreme Court and it was confirmed he could reject the pardon. We must believe and appropriate this wonderful gift for our lives.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Think for a few minutes how your name or other peoples names have come to play a role in their life. Also think about names in the Bible and what we learn about God in the O.T. and about God in the N.T. through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Take another look at the Louie Giglio Quote on pages 2 & 3, what part speaks the most to you?
- 3) We learned that hunger exist in many forms please discuss the four listed in our notes:
 - a) Hunger for Power: *We want a King*
 - b) Hunger for Experience: *We want a miracle*
 - c) Hunger for Satisfaction: *We want food*
 - d) Hunger for Rules: *We want to be right* (Contrast this hunger versus the “Zoe” kind of life God desires for us)
- 4) Lastly please discuss the fact that this “bread” is a gift but must be appropriated (received and eaten).

