

Gathering KNOWLEDGE

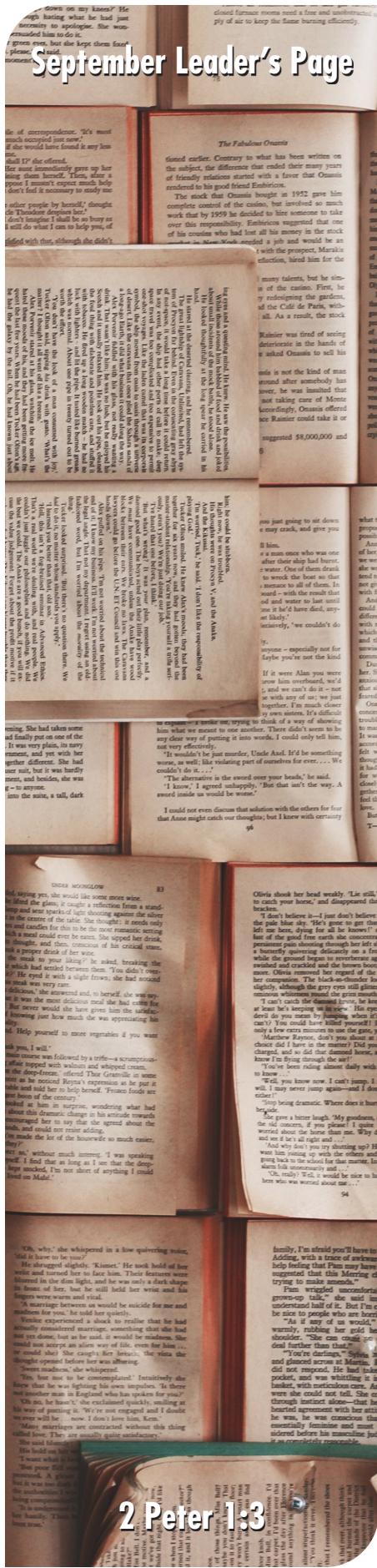
Today's world is hungry at so many different levels. People crave for more money, more power but do we crave for more knowledge of Jesus?

The word 'hunger' has such a negative connotation upon first thought. Our guttural reaction to this word is that it's something to eradicate, and in the comforts of western civilization, possibly, even fear. Biologically, hunger signals to us that we need food sustenance to survive. Spiritual hunger is almost entirely different and exceedingly more necessary for us as Christians. It's a craving for spiritual sustenance, and unlike fleeting physical hunger, the craving of spiritual sustenance leads to the miraculous effect of being fully and completely satisfied while simultaneously creating an even stronger yearning for more; a biblical oxymoron that has no earthly equivalent.

Peter knew of hunger for knowledge. He wasn't afraid to ask Jesus for 'more' as he discovered who Jesus really was. Peter had a spiritual yearning that I believe Christ delighted in. When Peter asked Jesus to call him onto the water, Christ called. As Peter's knowledge of who Jesus was grew, he became increasingly bolder in the majesty and power of God. Towards the end of his life, writing amidst a time where Christianity was persecuted by the public and perverted by false teachings within the church, Peter wrote today's verse that

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV).

The meaning of the word life in this verse connotes the absolute fullness of life. The way we can experience the totality of life God intended –increasing our knowledge of Christ– is to spend time with Him through prayer and reading scripture. The more our knowledge of Him increases, the more our spiritual yearning increases in a way that only relationship with the Father can satisfy.



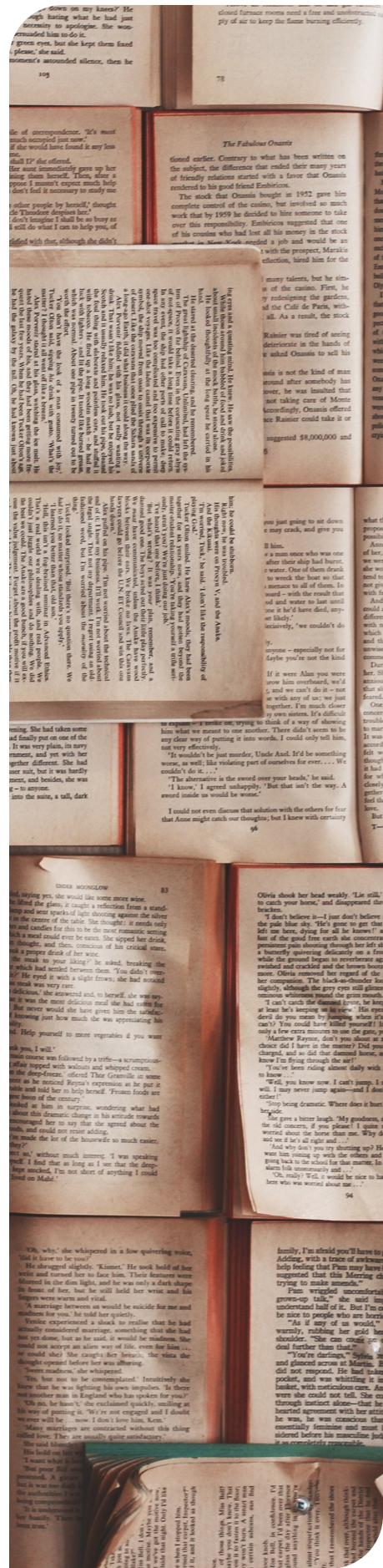
Gathering

KNOWLEDGE continued

After reading scripture, consider these questions:

1. What hunger have you responded to lately? Have you ever associated the physical sensation of being hungry to your relationship with Jesus?
2. Do you crave time with Jesus? Do you have a yearning to increase your knowledge of Him as Peter did?
3. Think of a time when you've felt distant, a dry season where Christ felt far away. Did life in that moment, feel full and complete?
4. Think of a time in your life when you felt closest to Jesus. In that moment, did you crave more or less of Him?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.



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Think of a time when you've felt distant, a dry season where **Christ** felt far away. Did life in that moment, feel **full** and complete?

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Think of a time in your life when you felt closest to **Jesus**. In that moment, did you crave more or less of **Him**?

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The spiritual implications that happen to us when we are spiritually born again affect the way we interact with the world in every way possible. It starts the moment we acknowledge and accept His grace, but that is only the beginning of our transformation. The only way to gain a knowledge of Christ, is to spend time with Him day by day, and moment by moment.



How can we serve, follow, or love someone that we don't know?

The fullness of life Peter refers to in today's passage leads to partaking in God's divine nature, the spiritual satisfaction, a holy feedback loop that comes the more we hunger for Jesus. Let's assess our hunger for knowledge of Christ at this point in our lives:

2 PETER 1:4-5

What are the components Peter identifies here as part of the divine nature we partake in the more we grow in knowledge of Christ?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:10, COLOSSIANS 3:10 & GALATIANS 2:20

Do you think that a knowledge of Christ and what he did for us, should transform us into "new selves" through our crucifixion with Christ, sharing in his sufferings?

How does 'the new self' in Colossians 3:10 relate to the 'divine nature' of Christ that Peter tells us we can be partakers in (2 Peter 4-5)?

Written by Mr. Eli Morgan
Communications Department, Territorial Headquarters



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