

Topic	Bread of Life
Reference	John 6:22-65
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Speaker	Dr Peter Ng

There are three basic points which are very simple:

1. There is a difference between what we desire and what we need
2. Jesus is all we need for eternal life
3. The Spirit enables us to desire what we actually need

## **1. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT WE DESIRE AND WHAT WE NEED:**

### **Background:**

On the background you have got this huge miracle, never happened before except in the Old Testament where they had problems with lunch. Everybody went to the party, nobody brought any food, and then they attack one poor little boy who has got some fishes and some loaves of bread. They grabbed his lunch but through a miracle that was all provided for about 20,000 people and Jesus had a big buffet, was so much so there were leftover 12 baskets of bread and scrapes of food. So we have got that miracle in the background and the next miracle in the background, we jump into a storm in the middle of the sea or the lake and what Jesus does is that he walks on water towards the boat, the storm doesn't stop. There was an episode before where the storm stops when he gets inside but here the storm continues but Jesus gets inside the boat with his disciples.

### **A. Desire For Power:**

*John 6:14-15 (ESV) When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"<sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

We can see in this passage, there is a dissonance between what we desire and what we actually need and the first desire that comes out of this particular miracle, they all got very excited. We have got a new hero; we can actually lap ourselves onto. He creates a buffet for 20,000 people, isn't that great. We will make him king and when he comes and become king we will be prime minister; I will get the contracts to build the bridge across the city. So here we actually hear what it actually reveals is a desire for power that's undergird. That's how they see miracle, that's how they see God.

Bertrand Russell is basically a world famous British Nobel laureate in literature, philosophy, mathematics and he writes about human nature. This is his speech during the acceptance speech of the Nobel prize in 1950 and he writes,

*Love of power is closely akin to vanity, but it is not by any means the same thing. .... Power, like vanity, is insatiable. Nothing short of omnipotence could satisfy it completely. And as it is especially the vice of energetic men, the causal efficacy of love of power is out of all proportion to its frequency. It is, indeed, by far the strongest motive in the lives of important men.*

It is power, we can see in our surroundings so many people vying for power. Here we actually have Jesus Christ talking about political power and he says in Chapter 18,

*John 18:36-37 (ESV) Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, **my servants would have been fighting**, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—**to bear witness to the truth**. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."*

Jesus is about the truth, not about the power. Charles Colson is a man who comes from power. He died recently, he was an aide to president Nixon during the Watergate crisis and he was sent to jail because of his role in the political machinations behind the Watergate scandal and he wrote a book called 'Born Again' after becoming a Christian. He writes,

*"human politics is based on the premise that society must be changed in order to change people, but Christians understand that it's the other way around: People must be changed in order to change society".*

Jesus Christ is not about the political process; Jesus Christ is not about to give in to your quest for power but Jesus Christ is about the truth transforming lives. We actually have the example of Constantine, just 300 years of Christianity, persecuted beyond imagination and one day he was going to fight against the emperor of Rome he saw a sign across the sky and the sign was of a cross as it were and by this you shall conquer. What he did was he immediately became a Christian, so seemed at that time and he had all the soldiers put the sign of cross on the shoulder pads and on their shields and he actually won the battle and 80 years later on when the whole Roman Empire became Christian by edict itself, persecution stopped.

So you actually have the coalescent of state and faith together, the deadliest mixture ever, why, because from there you have got the crusades where countless thousands have been killed. When faith takes the glove of power, when the church and state are one. Look at England, King Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon and what happens he leaves the catholic church, starts English reformation. For reasons other than his sexual desires, nothing to do with religion, started a new church and he begins to follow Constantine and he actually appoints bishops. So we go to England today, queen Elizabeth is the one who appoints your archbishop. King Henry had the son called Edward VI, he is protestant and he starts to persecute the Catholics. When he dies, the sister comes in power called Mary I. They call her bloody Mary because she starts to persecute the protestants because she is catholic. So when you actually have power and faith together, it is a deadly-deadly mixture.

## Persecution of the Anabaptists

Anabaptists were persecuted in Switzerland and moving onto Germany. Anabaptists are the people in the 1500s, who discovered that, look we don't come to faith by being baptized as a child. We must have believer's baptism. So what they do, they go and baptize again. That's why they are called Anabaptist. That was really bad. People who are re-baptized again were mercilessly clubbed to death, hung, pierced, drowned. The number of people who died during this persecution in Europe were more than the entire number of Christians persecuted in the first 300 years after Christ. It is a huge persecution that happened. There is a lot of persecution when you bring faith to power. We have a different kingdom.

### B. Our Materialistic Desires:

*John 6:25-26 (ESV) When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because **you ate your fill of the loaves.***

You see, they come to Jesus and they are very kind, how are you Jesus, we didn't know you got here but Jesus looks into your heart, you are here for the buffet right. It is a fact because the average guy at that time was not like us, no savings for him. 85% of their income is spent on the day's meal. So when Jesus provides the day's meal, you got an 85% of income, you know and that's a good deal and they are thinking, wow this is great and they are all coming because suddenly everyone becomes rich. If Jesus gives me 85% of my income, the rest of the time I can play, so therefore they are coming and Jesus knows that it is a materialistic desire that actually derive them. Bertrand Russell writes again,

*Acquisitiveness — the wish to possess as much as possible of goods, or the title to goods — is a motive which, I suppose, has its origin in a combination of fear with the desire for necessities. I once befriended two little girls from Estonia, who had narrowly escaped death from starvation in a famine. They lived in my family, and of course had plenty to eat. But they spent all their leisure visiting neighboring farms and stealing potatoes, which they hoarded. However much you may acquire, you will always wish to acquire more; satiety is a dream which will always elude you.*

We never ever have enough, our desire for material gain. There is a study by Robert Wuthnow from Princeton University. They looked at the attitudes of people towards material belongings and you can see how conflicted people are. In that survey:

- 89% agree that "our society is much too materialistic,
- 84% also say, "I wish I had more money than I do."
- 71% believe "being greedy is a sin against God," yet
- 76% say, "having money gives me a good feeling about myself.
- 69% admire those who "take a lower paying job in order to help others."
- 52% want to reduce their work hours.

- 68% would be willing to work longer hours if it meant more pay.
- 71% said that society could be improved, if people placed less emphasis on money.
- At the same time, 80% admire those who "make a lot of money by working hard."

Here we are totally conflicted because of our desire for temptation. Temptation comes to us in different ways, we all focus on the wrong thing. We have wrong focus in life and that's what Jesus said,

*John 6:27-29 (ESV) Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."*

Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, there was a big explosion there and the molten lava came out in a very rapid place and they actually found lots of people encased in molten lava. Very interesting case in Pompeii, they found a lady and when they chipped off all the molten lava or the hardened lava, she was found holding her jewels in her hand. All of her life has been reduced to a bunch of jewels, that's what your life is worth but the jewels transcend your life. The jewels survived but she didn't survive. So therefore do not work for things that do not endure.

### **C. Our Desire For Control:**

*John 6:30-31 (ESV) So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat."*

Here is a whole bunch of 20,000 people fed beyond their wildest dreams, full stomach with leftover burping all over the place and they are asking Jesus, hey got some more, can I have another miracle. They are absolutely insatiable and Jesus actually says,

*John 6:27-29 (ESV) Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."*  
*28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"*

Our desire for control is reflected on the fact that we can actually do something to contribute. Here we have Jesus Christ creating food for 20,000 people and they say, hey we also want to do that, what must we do. A miracle feeding 20,000 people was an impossibility and yet these people are saying, they got to leverage what they have for what Jesus is going to give them, what must we do. They want salvation by works and again Jesus answers them in Matthew 12:

*Matthew 12:39-41* <sup>39</sup> But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; <sup>40</sup> for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus is saying, look the biggest miracle and sign you will ever see is one day when I am dead and I am going to rise again, but the people of that generation like us they want a video clip of that, the resurrection, in and out every generation needs the same miracle again and again because they want control, they want sensation, they don't want God instead they need a genie. We want to control God and the problem with controlling God is that we will never be satisfied. The human heart is filled with desires which are much bigger than what we actually are. We have a desire that is insatiable and that desire seeks to control and Bertrand Russell actually writes,

*All human activity is prompted by desire. There is a wholly fallacious theory advanced by some earnest moralists to the effect that it is possible to resist desire in the interests of duty and moral principle. I say this is fallacious, not because no man ever acts from a sense of duty, but because duty has no hold on him unless he desires to be dutiful. If you wish to know what men will do, you must know not only, or principally, their material circumstances, but rather the whole system of their desires with their relative strengths.*

Bertrand Russell is correct; we are driven by desires. Everything we do is led by what we want in life and when we come like the crowd, we come to Jesus Christ, we come to God we are looking for God that is molded by our desires. So therefore we want to have a God defined by our own desires.

- If we are afraid, we want a Jesus to be our leader.
- We are sick Jesus has to be our healer.
- If you are poor, Jesus has to be your banker.
- If you are lonely, Jesus has to be friend.

Jesus is there to meet your desires, but the trouble is that kind of Jesus is a cutaway Jesus because it is a Jesus made after your own image. If you have a Jesus like this, then your Jesus is actually a very tiny kind of Jesus. Jesus is much bigger than that but you want a cutaway one and to keep in your pocket and the whole idea of human desire is that, we want to control God. So instead of Jesus being the bread of life, Jesus is our supplement. Our idea is that, we will do our main thing in life and Jesus is an add-on supplement just to make us a little bit more handsome, a bit more energetic, Jesus is a supplement that's the kind of Christianity which they want.

## **2. JESUS IS ALL WE NEED FOR ETERNAL LIFE**

There are four reasons why Jesus is all we need for eternal life:

- a) He is God's Manna
- b) He does His fathers will
- c) He reveals the Father to us
- d) He gives His life for us

## a) Jesus is God's Manna to Us

*John 6:26-27 (ESV) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the **food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.***

In Greek, the word miracle is called 'semeion', it is a sign. A miracle is a sign, you don't get inmate by the sign, you must look at what the sign is pointing to. The significance of sign is that it points to something else and they actually miss all this. Jesus is God's manna to us. In the Old Testament commentaries in Midrash, it actually points

*"You shall not find manna in this age but you shall find it in the age that is coming"* (Midrash Melkilta)

*"What did the first redeemer do? He brought down the manna, the last redeemer will also bring down manna"* (Midrash Rabba on Eccles 1:9)

That sign already shown them and they couldn't actually see it. Jesus points out to them

*John 6:32-34 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was **not Moses** who gave you the bread from heaven, but **my Father** gives you the **true bread from heaven**. 33 For the bread of God is he who **comes down from heaven** and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."*

They misunderstood it again, it is actually pointed to Jesus as the manna and then Jesus says

*John 6:35-36 (ESV) Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.***

Now this 'I am' statement is very important in the theology of John because this is the first time he is saying, 'I am' and there are seven statements as we go through the book of John of 'I am'

- I am the bread of life (Jn 6:35)
- I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12)
- I am the gate (Jn 10:9)
- I am the good shepherd (Jn 10:11)
- I am the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25)
- I am the way the truth and the life (Jn 14:6)
- I am the vine (Jn 15:6)

These statements are very important because hidden in this statements actually there is a truth. If you look at the significance of statement to understand a little bit of bit. In Greek there are two ways of saying 'I am'. You can either say, 'Ego' which is I am or you can say 'Eimi'

which is I am. In this particular passage and in all the seven statements it goes together, 'I am I am the bread of life'. When you put the two 'Ego and Eimi' together, there is only one other place in the whole of scripture you actually see the two together. It is in the Greek Old Testament called the Septuagint and it is in Exodus chapter 3:24 God said to Moses, "I am who I am.

By saying I am, I am Jesus is identifying with God. That's why he is the bread of life. That's why he is the way to truth and the life. That's why he is the great shepherd, that's why he will fulfil every desire of our lives.

*John 6:35-36 (ESV) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever **believes in me shall never thirst.***

So therefore Jesus is God's manna in a sense that God will fulfill every single desire and need in your life. Isaiah mentions this metaphor

*Isaiah 55:1-3 (ESV) Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.*

Already in the Old Testament saying that you cannot work. It is not trying to imply that Christians are basically all for free food. The whole idea is that only God can give you something that will satisfy you completely. People like Aristotle writes about the purpose of life, "*Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.*"

If you believe that then the best thing to do is like follow the few hundred thousand people in this country, every day they inject ketamine or something and then you become very happy. If the meaning of life is that then every day you should sniff but that's not true. Most of us will not accept that this is the meaning of life, others like Ralph Waldo Emerson say, "*The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.*"

A lot of people actually subscribe to that. We want to do something with our lives, we want a cause higher than ourselves, but the problem is even if you did that, you come under the problem of the Myth of Sisyphus, which is a Greek myth where Sisyphus was actually punished by the gods. He had to spend his whole eternity pushing a huge ball of rock right up to the hill and after he finish doing it, it falls back to the original place. Then he has to go down and push that up and then it falls down again. The cycle continues. Imagine you do that every single day for eternity, that's the problem of the myth of Sisyphus and that's the problem that face every human being in the world here who says there is no God. You know, why, because whatever

you do is not really going to make any difference a 100 years from now. It is like the rock falling back down again. So that's the problem of life. The only way you can reconcile this is suggested by Albert Camus, the second youngest man to win the Nobel Prize and he actually said

*You must imagine Sisyphus happy. Giving meaning to our own existence by what we do.*

So basically as he is pushing this up, he must be thinking, I am going to be happy. I am going to find meaning in pushing this rock. So we give meaning to our own endeavor. That's the only way out. Now Bertrand Russell says

- *All human activity is prompted by desire.*
- *However much you may acquire, you will always wish to acquire more; satiety is a dream which will always elude you.*
- *Power, like vanity, is insatiable. Nothing short of omnipotence could satisfy it completely.*

There is something wrong with human beings. We have got desires; they are so outsized that it doesn't fit reality. Our desires are far bigger than what we actually are. Our desires tell us something and C.S. Lewis writes

*All our desires, all our human appetites, are reminders of our ultimate hunger for God. Our sexual desires, our food desires, our desire for meaning and purpose, our work desires, all point to a deeper longing to feel God's embrace*

So therefore if you look in human psyche, our desires to be master of universe, you know, why, it comes from the fact that we are created by a God who is the master of the universe. So therefore we want outsize things that we could never achieve because we are created with the heavens of stars in our hearts as it were.

### **Now we go back to our background:**

Why does our passage occur after the miracle of the feeding of 5000 and after this Jesus coming inside. Jesus is telling you that I am the bread of life, if you got a difficult situation where you have got nothing to eat, I am going to come and do a miracle, I am going to change the circumstance. When you got a terrible problem with storm, in which you are going to die in and the second instance Jesus doesn't stop the storm, he gets into the boat with you. So in these two miracle he covers all the situations you will feel in life and what is the common factor, the common factor is Jesus. Either Jesus is in the storm or Jesus gives you the bread but Jesus is all you need in life. So we are back to the garden of Eden. You can have the tree of the knowledge of good and evil where you are independent and you want control and or you got a tree of life, we are totally dependent and you are dependent on Jesus, the bread of life as it were.



*John 6:51 (ESV) I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone **eats of this bread**, he **will live forever**. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

There is nuance in this particular passage. He is always talking about eating Jesus. If we look back into the Greek word for eating is 'traegor', and it actually means eating like a cow, munching on grass. The cow chews the whole day and after chewing the whole day it swallows and then regurgitate again and chew again. The whole day is spent chewing in a very noisy fashion. That's what it is got to be, that's what Jesus is trying to get across that he is our life and the word life here, you can either use two in Greek, Bios, which is the length of life. He doesn't use this. He uses the word, Zoe which is basically the quality of life that is actually from heaven. You can chew Jesus up continually all the time to enjoy the quality of life that's actually from heaven.

Now Jesus is all that you need, you know why, because not only he is the bread of life, he is also does his father's will

*John 6:36-39 (ESV) But I said to you that **you have seen me and yet do not believe**.*

*John 6:66-67 (ESV) 66 After this many of his disciples **turned back and no longer walked with him**.*

It was a difficult situation, apparent failure. 20,000 people had a free buffet and they all walk away and

*John 6:37-40 **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.** 38 For I have come down from heaven, **not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.** 39 And this is the **will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.***

Jesus is all you need, you know, why when the father gives you to Jesus Christ the only way you are going to fall away are two situations.

1. Jesus is unable to keep you.
2. Jesus is unwilling to keep you.

Jesus always does his father's will. So therefore Jesus is all that we need.

### **C. Jesus Reveals God To Us:**

*John 6:41-46 (ESV) So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"*

For them they have seen Jesus between them, how can he come from heaven. Familiarity breaths contempt and Romans describes the minds of human beings

*Romans 1:21-23 (ESV) .. although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were **darkened**.*

So there is something that happens to human beings when they don't acknowledge God and our thinking is changed. An example of this,

*22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

The mind of man is changed. Smartest human being ever lived they say was Steven Hawkins and see how his mind has changed. He said

*"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing  
"Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going."*

Smartest man in the world actually says that law of gravity is responsible for creation and not gravity. A law which man has devised to describe what is actually happening is actually the source of creation. Isaac Newton lived 100s of years before that and he said, *"Gravity explains the motion of the planets but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion"*

Isaac Newton was a Christian. His mind wasn't as clouded as this guy. This is a deliberate attempt to suppress God and Jesus reveals God to us

*John 6:43-46 (ESV) 43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God.' **Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.***

So anyone who comes to God has to be taught by, God is the one who is going to reveal himself through us to the person of Christ and will teach us directly. Isaiah says

*Isaiah 54:13-14 (ESV) All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.14 In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.*

When we actually come to God, God actually reveals himself through the pages of Bible that we can accept him.

#### **D. He gives his life on our behalf**

*John 6:49-59 (ESV) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

A lot of controversy has come over this particular passage, some people take this literally. The Catholics will take this and say, there is a piece of bread and when you take this bread afterwards it is actually transformed by magic into the body of Christ, but if you actually look in the passage it doesn't say that.

*54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ...58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."*

But if you look back in verse 40, this is the will of my father that everyone who looks on the son, believes in him should have eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. This is a parallel to this, it means the same thing. So actually you don't have to physically feed. So the early Christians were accused of being cannibals, eating the body of Christ. Eating is a metaphor for looking and believing in Jesus Christ. So therefore Jesus is all we need for eternal life because he is God's manna. He does God's will, he reveals the father to us and he gives his life to us.

### **3. THE SPIRIT ENABLES US TO DESIRE WHAT WE NEED**

The whole problem in life is what we desire is not what we need, that's the biggest problem. There is a dissonance between that and that happens in

*John 6:60-65 (ESV) When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?"*

Whatever Jesus says, you get upset. They were very upset, they were insulted, they were saying, what is this crazy man saying. How do we bring what we need and what we want together?

*John 6:62-65 (ESV) 62 **Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?** 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."*

If you can't take this, wait till you see me on the cross, do you think you will be stumbled, you will absolutely be stumbled. So believing in Jesus Christ is actually an intellectual impossibility, it is actually intellectually impossible. That's why 20,000 people left. So how do you actually move from Jesus is the one I need to Jesus is the one I want desire as well as need. There is a difference and the difference comes in the passage. The passage says,

*John 6:63(ESV) 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.*

Has zero value at all. How does the spirit give life. So here we actually have, we always think in terms of effort

*28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

We are always trying to translate what we need to do is to what we can give to God as it were, we need to earn our salvation. The flesh Jesus says is no help at all. They are trying to earn salvation, Jesus says, it is of no help at all because the work of God is to believe. It is just to believe. In fact in John chapter 3,

*John 3:14-15 (ESV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

Believing is just like the time of Moses when the people were dying because they were bitten by serpents and in their dying breaths they were told to look at the Bronze serpent. By looking you gain eternal life. It doesn't take a lot of effort to look. You just have to cast your eyes to gaze and that was it. It is not a work, but we are to use to having to work for salvation and having not to work and just believing is totally counterintuitive.

*John 6:62-65 (ESV) 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.***

Which means if you actually focus, the words that Jesus speaks to us in the Bible are the way in which the Holy Spirit will take what God has given us and implants in us and regenerates new life. There is a condition though, when you read the Bible it suddenly got to come alive. It has got to produce eternal life, it is going to produce all the feelings that come with eternal life but there is a proviso, they proviso is

*John 6: 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."*

Now that's the hard saying. Of the 20,000 people who were there, only 12 stayed behind because they are the 12 who can come to God because they are granted by the father. So Jeremiah 15:16

*Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me **a joy and the delight of my heart**, for I am **called** by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.*

Our desires and our needs coalesce when we are called by God. If you are sitting down there and you are actually enjoying the word of the Lord and is becoming like honey to you, that is because you are called by God. If you are sitting down there and you are saying this is like medicine, it is probably that you are struggling with this issue. So Paul writes

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (ESV) And even if **our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing**. 4 In their case the **god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 **For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***

So what he is saying is that, for many of us who read the gospel, it is like 'I don't get it, it is boring, it doesn't do anything for me', but there is a process in your heart where God said, let there be light, it is part of creation. When God says, let there be light there will be light. It comes instantaneously. It is in the act of God. In an act of God, the light shines in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

When we look at Jesus Christ, suddenly Jesus Christ becomes wonderful, beautiful, delightful. That's because the light just went on and that's the only way it is going to happen. You don't do it by trying very hard, obeying a whole bunch.

When the spirit creates a desire in our hearts and suddenly the lights come on and you can see wow! this is the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. That is the gospel. So Jesus Christ is the bread of life, we need to enjoy Jesus by looking at God's beauty in the face of Jesus Christ with a sense of beauty in our hearts.

*Psalms 111:1-3 (ESV) Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my **whole heart**, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the **works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them**. 3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.*

So in order for us to enjoy the lord, we actually have to study. We have to put time into the word with prayer to allow God to just say, let the light come on and we can actually see the glory of god and this is how Paul concludes

*Philippians 3:8 (ESV) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*

We are going to come to a stage where Paul says everything in life is nothing. It is Jesus that is worth more than anything else.

Towards the end of Jesus's ministry on earth. This passage talks about the high priestly prayer of Jesus Christ and just before he has taken prisoner and has to die he actually has a dying wish. His dying wish is

*John 17:24-25 (ESV) Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, **to see my glory** that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

The true reward for the believer is that one day, you are going to be with Jesus where he is in order to see his glory. The glory of Jesus Christ surpasses the beauty of that entire universe. You cannot imagine what Jesus Christ is, you have seen the cross, you have seen his love, you have seen his passion for us, imagine one day thousands of years from now our reward is to sit and bask in his glory, experience his glory and also to be part of that glory. That is our reward, that should grip us, that should fill our imaginations and that should give us the power to live every day for him.