



Bread of Presence  
John 6:35

## **Have you ever felt like you have lost the presence of God in our life?**

- I've heard soldiers say that is how they felt in war
- I've read about prisoners of war that felt that way while in prison camps
- Those who are in severe affliction or torture will tell you there were times they felt this way
- Those who suffer from extreme depression

# Have you ever felt like you have lost the presence of God in our life?

- We read promises that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us
- That He will stick closer than a brother
- But how do we know for sure when our feeler is all messed up and pointing wrong like a compass that is broken

## **Have you ever felt like you have lost the presence of God in our life?**

- God has done so much for us, how do we know He will not just throw up His hands and holler, “What’s the use?”
- He illustrated this to the Nation of Israel by putting an important article in the “Holy Place” of the Temple called the Table of Showbread



## Table of Showbread

- **Exodus 25:23-30 NLT, 23**  
“Then make a table of acacia wood, 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high. 24 Overlay it with pure gold and run a gold molding around the edge....30 Place the Bread of the Presence on the table to remain before me at all times.”

## Table of Showbread

- This table stood in the “Holy Place”, next to the “Holy of Holies”
- There were twelve large round loaves of bread, one for each tribe of Israel, arranged in two rows of six and presented with frankincense
- These loaves were exchanged weekly on the Sabbath with new freshly baked loaves

## Table of Showbread

- The old loaves would be eaten by the priests working in the “Holy Place”
- There was one clan of priests responsible for preparing and baking the loaves to God’s requirements and exchanging them weekly

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - It was an offering to God acknowledging their covenant relationship to the Lord
  - **Leviticus 24:8 NLT**, Every Sabbath day this bread must be laid out before the Lord as a gift from the Israelites; it is an ongoing expression of the eternal covenant.

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - The table highlights that God dwells with Israel in a special manner
  - This covenant relationship was essential to the Nation of Israel as bread was essential to the people
  - The table of bread emphasizes God's provision for Israel

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - God is the Creator and covenant Lord who has promised to redeem and care for them
  - As the source of their life, He gives them their daily bread (like the “manna” in the wilderness; Ex. 16:1–36)

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - But even more so, He is the source of their eternal life
  - And the people acknowledge these things by participating in the food offering ritual of the table
  - They provide a portion for the table out of the abundance of what God has given them

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - In this way, the people show their gratitude and worship the covenant Lord
  - The table highlights the intimate fellowship that exists between God and His people
  - In the Bible, a shared meal was a time of close fellowship between people, especially in the context of a covenant

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - In Exodus 24:9–11, after God gave His law to Israel, Moses and the elders went up the mountain to eat a meal with the Lord
  - This was the covenant meal that sealed the relationship between God and Israel
  - Eating in the presence of God revealed that Israel was intimately known and loved by Him

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - The table became a perpetual reminder of the intimate fellowship that God shared with His people
  - The bread symbolized that Israel would always have a presence before God
  - They would always have an offering acceptable to God that was renewed weekly

## Table of Showbread

- What was God showing Israel and all those under His covenant?
  - The showbread was also called the “bread of the presence” (literally, “the bread of the face”), which was set before the presence/face of Yahweh
  - Ultimately this symbol points to the person and work of Jesus Christ

## Setting the context

- **John 6:14-15 NIV**, 14 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.

## Setting the context

- **John 6:26-27 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.”

## Setting the context

- **John 6:28-29 NIV**, 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.”
- **John 6:30-31 NIV**, 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.’”

## Setting the context

- **John 6:32-34 NIV**, 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.”

## Setting the context

- **John 6:40-42 NIV**, 40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day." 41 Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

## Setting the context

- **John 6:66 NIV**, At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.
- All because Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty”

## Scripture

- **John 6:35 NIV**, 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”

## **Jesus is telling us this morning that He is what the Showbread on the Table of Presence symbolized**

- These Old Testament elements are shadows of better realities that have come to the church in Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:1)
- He is the fullest expression of the tabernacle, temple as the presence of God among His people

## **Jesus is telling us this morning that He is what the Showbread on the Table of Presence symbolized**

- When we are in covenant relationship with Jesus
  - He is always our “bread of the face” before a Holy, Righteous, and Just God
  - He is our acceptable and pleasing offering to God on behalf of His people

## **Jesus is telling us this morning that He is what the Showbread on the Table of Presence symbolized**

- When we are in covenant relationship with Jesus
  - He is our great High Priest standing in the gap between sinful mankind and God making intercession for us
  - And all of this without end for those under His New Covenant

## Jesus is telling us this morning that He is what the Showbread on the Table of Presence symbolized

- **Lamentations 3:22-25 NLT**, 22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. 23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. 24 I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!”

## **Jesus is telling us this morning that He is what the Showbread on the Table of Presence symbolized**

- This you must remember when you feel like the presence of the Lord is no longer in your life, circumstances, consequences, hopelessness
- The face of my Lord is always before the presence of God Almighty for me

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- **Matthew 5:6 NIV**, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
  - Jesus said in **John 6:35 NLT**, “Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- There is a great need for Biblical righteousness in our lives
  - The Biblical meaning of righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including character (*nature*), conscience (*attitude*), conduct (*action*), and command (*word*)

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- There is a great need for Biblical righteousness in our lives
  - Righteousness is, therefore, based upon God's standard because He is the ultimate Lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22)
  - God does not grade on a curve but in sinlessness

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- **Romans 3:23 NIV**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- Each of us has lost our righteous standing before God

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- But here is the good news: righteousness is not being legalistic — it is not about our achievements under God's law
- Righteousness is a wonderful gift from God to me through Christ's act of love

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- A wonderful exchange happens when we accept Jesus Christ
  - Scripture tells us the wages of sin is death, but God accepts His death in our place
  - **1st John 1:9 NIV**, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- A wonderful exchange happens when we accept Jesus Christ
  - God accepts Jesus' righteousness as ours

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- **Romans 3:24-25a NIV**, “24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right (*righteous*) in his sight. He did this through (*from*) Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.”

**Jesus is telling us this morning when you come to Him in faith, you will never hunger nor thirst for righteousness again**

- This you must remember when you feel like the presence of the Lord is no longer in your life, circumstances, consequences, hopelessness
- The righteous requirement of God has been satisfied for you eternally through the cross of Jesus
- **Romans 8:1 NLT**, So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

## Jesus is telling us this morning how much God loves us

- **1st John 1:10 NLT**, “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”
- Jesus said it like this in **John 6:33 NIV**, “For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
- It is very easy to take God’s love for granted and begin to leave Him out of our daily lives

## Jesus is telling us this morning how much God loves us

- But we must keep our physical and spiritual eyes on the love of God to not lose touch with the presence of God in our lives
- To not be satisfied with today only, but looking out toward eternity
- **Hebrews 11:10 NLT**, Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

## Jesus is telling us this morning how much God loves us

- He loves us so much He will not force Himself and His will on us
- **John 6:35 NIV**, Whoever comes and whoever believes are the conditions of eternal salvation
  - Whoever comes to Jesus with nothing in your hands confessing your great need for a Savior
  - Whoever believes Jesus is, did, and does everything He said

## **Jesus is telling us this morning how much God loves us**

- There is no condition to humanly understand it all
- This you must remember when you feel like the presence of the Lord is no longer in your life, circumstances, consequences, hopelessness
- God's love for you personally is anchored in His love and not your works or lack thereof

## The Old Testament showbread placed on the table in the tabernacle provides a wonderful picture of Jesus, our Bread of Life

- Jesus is holy before God, He provides true sustenance, and He is always present
- Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry (*eternally*)” (John 6:35).



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