

Rekindling a Desire for God's Word

1Peter 2:1-3

Our main thought comes from verse 2:

LIKE NEWBORN INFANTS, LONG FOR THE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK.... That milk is the milk of the Word of God.

KJV:

*As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby:*

NASB:

Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word

Just like the newborn infant has that strong desire for the milk, we are commanded to have a strong desire for the WORD of God.

The newborn's survival depends upon the milk from his/her mother. Nothing else will satisfy that little fellow who is so precious but can scream for the whole world to hear if a supply of milk is not given. In the same way our spiritual survival is dependent upon the nourishment received from the Word of God. There is an inner hunger given to us by the Holy Spirit, and nothing will fill that hunger except God's Word.

When the newborn baby is hungry, he/she cares for nothing else. The baby cares nothing about disturbing your sleep. Cares nothing to cry waking everyone up

- Cares nothing for the beautiful blanket you bought.
- Cares nothing for the cute little outfit you purchased. Or for the toys in the crib.
- Cares nothing for the baby room that was prepared so diligently for his/her arrival.

That little guy has one LONGING...ONE DESIRE.... And that's to be fed with pure milk.

That illustration, that analogy Peter uses to present this imperative.... DESIRE (LONG FOR) the SINCERE Milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:

There's no getting around this. You and I must have that strong desire and longing for the Word of God, or we will fall into spiritual complacency. We'll become indifferent to God's truths which will hinder our walk with Christ. If something is not done, we will fall by the wayside due to spiritual poverty and malnourishment.

I pray we will have a LONGING for God' Word like JOB.

Job 23:12

I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

And like DAVID who wrote speaking of God's WORD:

Psalm 19:10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold;
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

And there's the hunger for God's Word spoken of by JEREMIAH:

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,

Between 1 and 10 with 10 being the highest, where would you place your DESIRE for God's Word?
Are you a 9 or 10? Maybe a 5? Or lower? Maybe the desire to get into God's Word is less than a
1, or maybe you're barely on the scale at all.

What can we do when the DESIRE is NOT there? At least it's not where it should be?

There can be a "rekindling of the fire"; "a Stirring UP of the Passion" for God's Word. When the
desire is NOT as it should be, it can be restored.

God has given us a way to reclaim the joy, the desire, and the hunger for God's Word.

FIRST, there needs to be a RECALL

1. RECALL YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION IN CHRIST - "SO" or "Therefore"

RECALL how you came to know Christ.

"So" or Therefore is a linking word to what's been said previously. Someone has said, "when
you see "therefore" you look back to see why it's there for". The previous chapter is about our
salvation in Christ.

See 1:23 "being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,
which liveth and abideth forever."

We must DESIRE God's Word because that's how we were saved. BEING BORN AGAIN by the Word
of God.

James 1:18 *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind
of firstfruits of his creatures.*

Go back to the day you were convinced of your lost condition. You heard the WORD OF TRUTH.
You heard the truth about sin, about judgment, and of hell, and how God sent His Son, the Lord
Jesus Christ to pay for your sins on the cross.

God's Word produced faith in your heart. You believed, repented of your sins, and asked Christ to save you. The Gospel Seed was planted and cultivated. At some point you were born again.

God's Word was necessary in your COMING to CHRIST; it's also necessary for your GROWTH in CHRIST.

Peter says we are to CRAVE, to LONG for the pure spiritual milk of God's Word, that by it you may GROW UP into Salvation. The image of a newborn baby is a perfect illustration of this. We have several little infants in our church, and it's amazing how they change so quickly. They are growing so fast.

Our granddaughter, Everly, will let you know when she doesn't like some of this baby food we've introduced to her.....but one thing she is hooked on is the milk...She will get all hysterical when she sees the bottle getting prepared on the kitchen counter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk of the WORD, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

To help us have a STRONG DESIRE, a Fervent LONGING for God's Word, recall how it took the Word of God to bring you to salvation. Having been brought to salvation, are we then to forget the Word of God? That doesn't make sense. It had an important part in bringing us to saving faith. Think how much more important it serves for our spiritual growth!

Jesus said, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* **(John 8:31)**

The evidence of being a Christian is staying in touch with God's Word.

- God's Word serves to BRING US to Christ.
- And to GROW US UP in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Second, not only a **Recall** of how we came to know Christ... there must be a **REMOVAL**

2. REMOVAL OF HINDRANCES..... Putting away SIN

Put away (laying aside) rid yourselves of some things that hinder spiritual growth...

Put away that which will diminish your longing, or craving for the spiritual milk of God's Word.

The language given here is the image of "laying aside" filthy garments.

James 1:21 Therefore, laying aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in gentleness receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (Legacy)

Colossians 3:8 But now you also, lay them all aside: wrath, anger, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

Romans 13:12

The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

As a Believer we have the imputed righteousness of Christ; we are saved and justified by faith in Christ alone. We have Christ in us; the Holy Spirit in us... yet we have REMAINING SIN. We have this old nature....the flesh, which is enmity with God.

We are to "take off" and to "Put on". Like taking off the old garments that are the remains of our old lifeand we are to "put on" the garments of Christ.

Ephesians 4:20-24

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way— ²¹ if indeed you heard Him and were taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² to lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and to put on the new man, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

THE FILTHY Garments of the old man has got to go..... God is not going to do this for us. WE must apply ourselves and by an act of the will put away all that is sinful in us. Let's say you walk into a store and you see a rack of magazines that seems to be pornographic. You don't say, God please move that rack out of the way for me. God is not going to do that. You must turn down a different aisle in the store, or remove yourself completely from the store.

THIS IS WHY we must be in the Word of God. The Bible says, "flee all appearances of evil."

1Thess. 5:22 Abstain from anything that looks or seems to be evil.

We will not be able to have a DESIRE for GOD's Word if we Entertain sin in our thoughts and behavior.

Charles Spurgeon:

Backsliders begin with dusty Bibles and go on to filthy garments."

Howard Hendricks said the same thing:

He said "you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold. And yet the great tragedy among Christians today is that too many of us are *under* the Word of God, but not *in* it for ourselves."

Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives.

I don't know who came up with this saying, but I think **D.L. Moody** was famous for it....

Sin will keep you from the Bible

or

The Bible will keep you from sin

LET'S LOOK at some of the SINS.....

A. Malice - describes wickedness which comes from within a person. It refers to wickedness of every kind, but especially **having it in for someone**.

Malice is when we carry around a chip on our shoulders. We have bitterness toward someone. We have an unforgiving spirit.

NOTICE - "all" malice. REMOVE "all" of it. It will hinder you from having a desire and longing for the Word of God. To rekindle a Desire for God and His Word...all malice has got to go...

B. DECEIT – (GUILE) a desire to gain some advantage or preserve some position by deceiving others. (Piper)

Notice – "all" deceit.... Classic example - Annaias and Sapphira tried to pull one over on the church in Acts 5. They deceived people into thinking they gave a certain amount in order for others to be impressed with their supposed generosity. God took their lives... Very serious sin in the eyes of the Lord.

Deceit is any form of dishonesty & trickery... such things like...

- Falsifying income tax return
- Cheating on an exam
- Lying about one's age
- Bribing an official
- Being involved in a shady business deal

C. Hypocrisy – pretending to be something you're not. Wearing a mask.

The Pharisees were bonified Hypocrites. They worshipped God with their lips, but their heart was FAR from God. They carried out religious practices only to be SEEN by others. Their faith was false.

A true Christian cannot live constantly like a Hypocrite. There are those who profess to be a Christian and their life prove otherwise. That's a hypocrite.

A True Christian, however, can act in a hypocritical way. A Christian can show some hypocrisy. When he/she does, if you love that person, you will want to help them see it for what it is. One example is Peter. It's interesting Peter writes this letter telling his readers to "put away hypocrisy", and Peter, himself, was guilty of acting like a hypocrite about 20 years prior to the time of his writing 1Peter. (AD 64)

Paul wrote in AD 49 the letter to the Galatians. He points out Peter, or Cephas which is his name also.

Galatians 2:11-13 ¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles, but when they came, he *began to* shrink back and separate himself, fearing the party of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews joined him in **hypocrisy**, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their **hypocrisy**.

D. ENVY is bad feelings you have when someone else has something you want;

Envy causes you to feel displeased when hearing of the prosperity of others.

Someone has said, "Envy is the running-mate of hypocrisy."

- **Hypocrisy** is making claims of having "good" when we don't really have it, whereas,
- **Envy** tries to deny and defame the real good that others really do have.

Ray Pritchard says: Envy is jealousy at the success of others or happiness at another's misfortune. It is the poison of the soul that turns you into a resentful, angry, grouchy, miserable, critical person.

All sin is ugly, but Envy is really an ugly sin....It was out of envy Jesus was delivered up to Pilate to be crucified. The chief priests had delivered Him up because of envy." ([Mark 15:10](#))

E. Slander - note "all"

Slander - trying to make yourself look good, but saying unkind things of others.

Slander is backbiting, spreading rumors, making disparaging comments, malicious gossip, and as one Bible Teacher has said...

"it can take on very subtle forms...goes like this..

"Yes, she is a lovely person but she has this one failing ..." and then the knife is deftly thrust into her back. Or it may even have a religious pose: *"I mention this only for your prayer fellowship, but did you know that he ..."* and then the character is assassinated.¹

Charles Spurgeon in one of his sermons...uses some humor.... tells this fictitious story which could be true...

Spurgeon - There is a little mischief in the village about Miss A or Mr. B, and Mrs. Tittle-tattle is up as early as possible, and calls on Mrs. Scandal, and says, "Have you heard the sad news? I hope it is not true." "No, I have not heard it." "Well, don't mention it to anybody else. I hope it is not correct,

¹ Macdonald ([Believer's Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson](#))

but I have heard so-and-so.” And the two sit down, and they make such a breakfast over it. And they both say they hope it is not true, while all the time they are as glad of it in their hearts as ever they can be. They go on telling others they hope it is not true, and telling them not to mention it to anybody else, until they do all the mischief before they have stopped to inquire whether or not they are telling lies.

Recall how you were Born Again by the Word of God;

Remove all sinful hindrances that dilute your hunger and thirst for the Word of God.

3. RECEIVE God’s Word

A. with a desperate desire. Just like the newborn infant craves the milk.... The baby doesn’t just PREFER the milk, the infant desperately LONGS for the milk....

This is how we must approach the Bible. It’s important to remove, or lay aside the SINS mentioned here, because to the same degree those sins are active in our lives....the hunger/thirst/craving for God’s Word will be diminished.

Also, nothing else can substitute for the PURE, unadulterated WORD OF GOD. You can spoil your appetite for God’s Word when other things are desired.

Just like someone prepares a meal....but you messed up and loaded up on junk food, eating snacks....then the appetite for the meal is not there. You try to eat....someone says, are you sick? You not hungry? Like Mom use to say...don’t eat that bag of potato chips...it’ll spoil your supper....

Notice - long for the pure spiritual milk of the WORD....

You don’t dilute the milk with water..... don’t add anything..... Don’t take anything away....

don’t dilute God’s Word by mixing it up with man’s opinions.....

A devotional reading won’t substitute for the Word of God. Devotionals are good, so are some commentaries...

A bible commentary, and bible studies from You Tube will not substitute for the PURE Word.

To grow we must have the PURE WORD, unmixed with commentary....unmixed with the thoughts of others....

Like I say, a good commentary on scriptures is good, but first and foremost....Just READ it, and let it speak for itself. The Holy Spirit, the author of the Scriptures will give you illumination and feed your soul with God’s precious truths.

NOTHING can replace the soul-satisfying Words from our Lord. Just like the milk is the BABY’s life; so the Word of God is our LIFE. You can’t survive without God’s Word.

Hebrews 1:3 upholding all things by the word of his power

Matthew 4:4 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Receive God's Word--- with a desperate desire.... and

B. By tasting that the Lord is good

The Hebrew writer speaks of "TASTING the goodness of the word of God..."

Hebrews 6:5tasted the goodness of the word of God

Psalms 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

This is where it gets personal. You can hear about the goodness of the Lord.. You can read about it. Someone can try to convince you of the goodness of the Lord.

You won't really know for yourself, unless you taste and see that the Lord is good.

Rekindling the Desire for God's Word begins here. Taste for yourself. My first taste was someone sharing with me John 3:16. It was the beginning for me. My life was transformed.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

No matter how much I read it, there's a meal for my soul.

In that one single verse you have

The Greatest Person who loves us - God

The Greatest Degree of love - SO LOVED

The Greatest Company of people to love - THE WORLD

The Greatest WAY to love - THAT HE GAVE

The Greatest GIFT of love - His only begotten Son

The Greatest Opportunity - THAT WHOSOEVER

The Greatest Simplicity - BELIEVETH

The Greatest Attraction - IN HIM

The Greatest Promise - SHOULD NOT PERISH

The Greatest Possession - BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE

I'm sure you have a favorite verse, a favorite chapter, that you have feasted upon, tasted of the good WORD OF GOD...

IF INDEED you have tasted that the Lord is good, If indeed this is your experience in the past.....it should motivate you to go BACK to the Word for more.

Rekindling a passion with a deeper hunger to experience God more fully.

- Because It's there we come to learn of God and His WAYS: We learn of His mercy, His kindness, His grace, His strength, His purpose, His love, His holiness, His justice, His omnipotence, His faithfulness, His wisdom, and so much more.....
- There's nothing haphazard with God....He's in total control...His purpose is unwavering. Here's a great truth to feed on in **Romans 8:28**, especially in our current days of uncertainty:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

I pray we will all grow in our appetite for the Word of God. And we'll turn our eyes away from the table of the world which offers cheap substitutes for spiritual bread. I pray our taste buds will find great delight on the Bread from heaven, which is the true bread, the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God helps us to be truly THANKFUL. In everything Give Thanks... For He is Good!

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

In Every thing Give Thanks!