

Do You Know that the Lord is Good? How?

1 Peter 2:1-3

Introduction: Dr. Jordan Peterson's hope. Far more profound is the hope of the Christian gospel. God has given us the power to change our lives.

1. Before there will be a Desire for Spiritual Growth, there must be Rejection of Sins, verse 1.

We are not hostages to destructive attitudes and behaviors like malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander.

Persistent spiritual growth is the only check on conflict and division in the Church.

We are not victims of the sinful patterns of behavior that we may have learned from family and community.

We do not have to be in bondage to:

Malice: J.B. Lightfoot wrote, "Malice is the acting out of our vicious old nature which is bent on doing harm to others".

Deceit: W.E. Vine, "Deceit is the practice of elusive lying for some perceived personal gain."

Hypocrisy: Claiming to value certain virtues or principles but showing little commitment to these in your conduct.

Envy: W. E. Vine, "Envy is that feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others."

Slander: Wayne Grudem, "Slander is any false speech which harms or is intended to harm another person's status or reputation.

An echo of Psalm 34:11-14. David's praise in a time of rejection and exile.

2. The Nourishment needed for Spiritual Growth, verse 2.

The Christian's pure spiritual nourishment is the word of God, 1:23-25.

How Christians can obtain this pure spiritual nourishment:
through the preaching of the Word,
reading Scripture in private,
teaching of Scripture in classrooms,
Biblical council and admonitions from fellow believers,
through Bible-based Christian literature in print or audio formats,
Christian music, and other sources of Biblical learning.

Question: Why is it that any Christian might **not** desire the spiritual nourishment of the Scriptures eagerly and often like a baby wants milk?

Answer: Any Christian who will **not** get rid of behavior that is hypocritical and unloving will feel resistance to desiring spiritual nourishment.

If you cling to your sin, you will avoid Scripture.

Caution: Growth for a genuine Christian is assumed to be normal.

3. People with Spiritual Life have an appetite for God's Word, verse 3.

Psalm 34:6-8 (page 503)

Peter takes David's *call to taste* and encourages his readers by saying "*You all have already tasted of the Lord.*"

Karen Jobes, "Like David, Peter instructs them to bear up through suffering by holding on to the promise that the Lord is faithful and will deliver them."

The Greek of Psalm 34:6, the Lord delivered David from all his 'sojourning'.

Peter picks this up from his reading of the Greek Old Testament. How wonderful this must have been for Peter to see and send as a comfort to his readers living in affliction as sojourners in hostile places.

Conclusion:

What is this goodness that you have tasted if you are a believer?

You were chosen by God the Father for eternal salvation (1:1)

You were given new spiritual birth (1:3)

You have the promise of an inheritance in heaven (1:4)

You have been redeemed out of an empty way of life (1:18)

You have been put into a spiritual family of brothers and sisters who love you (1:22)

You possess the infallible source of truth to live by—the Word of God (2:2)

RDL@CrossWay/9-1-2019