

1 Peter 2:1-3

Long for the pure spiritual milk



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1 Peter 2:1-3

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

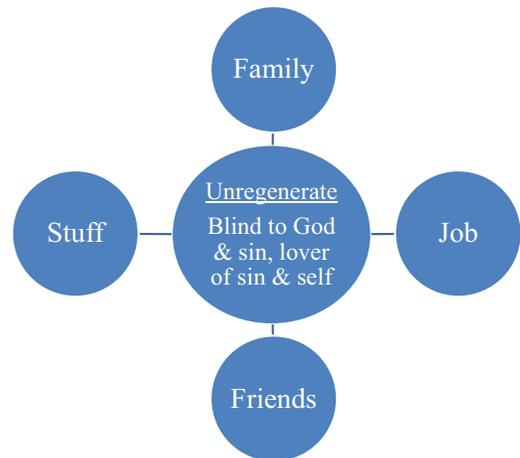
² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

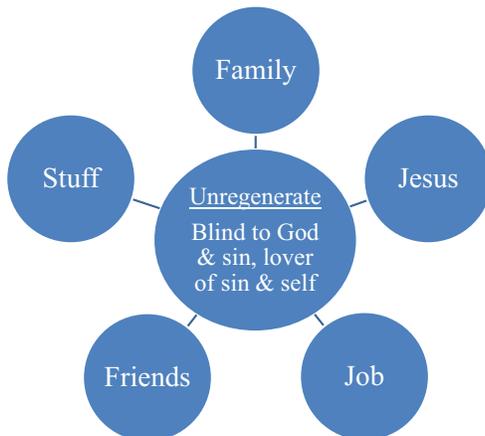
Regeneration/Born again/New birth

- It is the supernatural work of God, where God grants spiritual life, giving us a new heart/nature, puts His Spirit in us, and makes them a new creation (with new desires) (Ezek 36:22-31, 2 Cor 5:17)
- The first response of the new born Christian is repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:1)
- Without the new birth there is no hope for any of us to be saved. We must be born again to see/enter the kingdom of heaven. (John 3:3-8)
- Consider salvation apart from the new birth
- Is God forcing people to love Him in regeneration? (Robots?)
 - We do not begrudgingly love God & His word

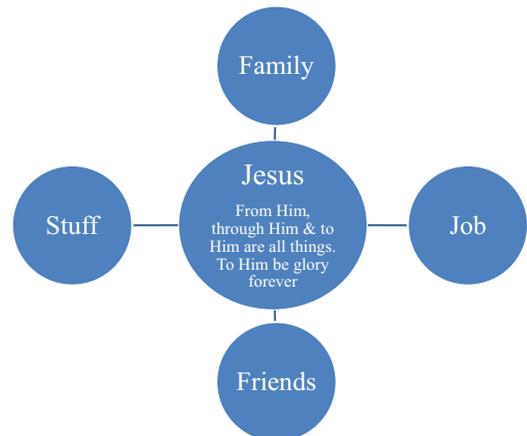
Unregenerate Man/Natural Man



False Convert



Regenerate Man



1 Peter 2:2 Another command is given to the Christian

- None of the commands given can be fulfilled unless someone is born again: **Hope** (Can't see, no faith), **Be holy** (Slave to sin), **Fear** (No fear of God), **Love one another** (Never experienced love of God, God is love)
- New command given: v2 *long for the pure spiritual milk*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

The desire for God's word in the life of the Christian displayed in scripture:

Psalm 119

- v14 *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.*
- v20 *My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times*
- v24 *Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors*
- v47 *I find delight in your commandments, which I love*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

Psalm 119

- v127 *I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold*
- v131 *I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.*
- v148 *My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise*
- v162 *I rejoice at your word, like one who finds great spoil*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk

Command-Long for (*epipotheō*)-to long for, desire

- **Romans 1:11** *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you*
- **2 Corinthians 5:2** *For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling*
- **2 Timothy 1:4** *As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy*

This is a command “to long for, desire” the pure spiritual milk (The Word)

- Is desiring God (His Word) the whipped cream and cherries of Christianity or foundational to Christianity?

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

Psalm 119

- v48 *I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes*
- v103 *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*
- v111 *Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

Who is the Psalmist describing in Psalm 119?

- All regenerate Christians (We have all experienced the new birth, desires have changed)

Are those descriptions completely foreign to you or would you say, “It describes/defines me but it is such a battle?”

Have you ever seen in scripture where the bible describes/defines you, and then commands you to be what it just said you are?

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

Romans 6 (S=Statement & C=Command)

S-V6 *our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

S-V7 *for one who has died has been set free from sin*

C-V12 *let not sin reign in your mortal bodies*

S-V17 *But thanks be to God that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set from sin, have become slaves of righteousness*

C-v19 *so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

Psalm 119 (Statements of desire/Battle for desire)

v18 *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law (Battle to see)*

v36 *Incline my heart to your testimonies; and not to selfish gain (Battle against sin)*

v37 *Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

- Regeneration works, it's the same in all Christians
- It changes our hearts/desires, gives us life
- The bible makes definitive statements about who you are now, and then calls you (by faith) to be what God has made you
 - We grow more & more into the reality of who we are
- It is a battle (Battle against deceitfulness of sin & Battle to believe and see)
 - You have responsibility

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So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

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³ *if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

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- Context v1 begins with “so” or “therefore”
- End of v25 “**and this word** is the good news that was preached to you”
- V23 “*since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God***”
- V1 “*so put away.....long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation*
 - We were born again by the “word”
 - Grow up to salvation by the “word”
- Milk-(1 Cor 3 and Hebrews 5 used as clear reference to Word of God (truth)

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

- We are to “**long for the pure spiritual milk**”
 - Pure-Unmixed (God’s word is pure)
 - Spiritual (Rom 12:1)-Not natural
- How are we to long for/desire the Word?
 - “*like new born infants*”
 - Cry out, Repeatedly
 - This longing is not merely an agreement or ascent to, but a passionate, crying-out, longing (desire/need)
 - Not a command to read, meditate, memorize, but desire (If you are **not** reading/meditating/memorizing, the issue is desire)
 - The battle is for desire (to see/believe)

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Long for the pure spiritual milk (Word)

- “*that by it you may grow up into salvation*”
 - Notice the connection between our longing for the word and our growing up into our salvation
 - There is not zapping to spiritual maturity
 - Growth comes through the consistent & continual effect of the Word in our lives
 - Prayerful reading/meditating/memorizing (IOUS)
- V3 “*if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good*”
 - This is not the common goodness
 - This is the Christian tasting (new birth/salvation)

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What keeps us from longing (Battle)

Sin (v1)

- Sin keeps us from the Word & the Word keeps us from sin
- *So put away **all** malice, and **all** deceit, and hypocrisy, and envy, and **all** slander*
- If our desire/longing for the Word is struggling, sin is the culprit (deceived by sin/not seeing truth)
 - We must “put away” all knowing sin
- This is not a fully extensive list of sins
- We cannot be praying for God to increase our desire while we live in knowing sin

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Summary

- God granted us desire for Him & His word in the new birth
- It is through the Word that we grow spiritually (accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit)
- We have a responsibility in our growth and it begins with desire
- Sin deceives us and impacts our desire
- We have everything we need to grow and become more like Jesus (2 Peter 1:3)
- Does anything have your eye more than His word? (Him)
- Is it possible to be a Christian and not have a desire/relationship with His word (Him)?

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