

1 Peter 2:2-6

Long for the Word like babies long for milk (verse 2)

Peter is not meaning that we are to be content with basic and surface level understanding of the Bible. In other passages of scripture, those who are new or young in the faith are partaking of the “milk” of the Bible instead of the “meat.” Just as infants drink milk and are not ready for meat, the same goes to new converts who partake of the milk at first and then as they grow in their faith, they will begin to be partakers of the meat or rather the deeper things of God and His Word. The milk or surface level things of His Word are meant for infants in the faith, but sadly many people who have been Christians for a long time are still on the milk of the Word. The Bible repeatedly states that those who are partaking of the milk or surface level things of God despite how long they have been a Christian are infants. God commands us to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18) and being surface level is not what the Bible commands for a Christian.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking ^{like}like mere men?
- **Hebrews 5:12-14** For though ^{like}by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the ^{like}elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

The meaning of this verse is noted by Peter using an analogy to show the intense desire and longing the one who is born again is to have for the Word of God. When infants are hungry, they will cry and scream and let everyone around know they want milk and won't stop until they get the milk. It's in their nature to desire milk and only milk. Those who are born again in their spiritual birth are to desire the Word of God. Infants desire and long for the milk as they know it is the only thing that will satisfy their hunger. When they finally receive the milk, they are satisfied. This is how the Christian is to long for and desire the Word of God as it is the only food for the soul. We are to hunger and thirst after righteousness (**Matthew 5:6**) and those who do that will be filled. We are to hunger and thirst after God and His Word and every time that we partake of the Word of God, just like the infant when they finally receive the milk and we satisfied, our minds and souls are satisfied.

The Bible describes the Word as pure. Regular milk has an expiration date, and it will spoil and go bad. However, the Word of God is pure, and it does not have an expiration date as it never goes out of date or become anything less than pure. The Bible won't go bad or not be applicable after a certain amount of time goes by, but rather is immutable, pure, and everlasting.

- **Psalms 12:6** The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
- **Proverbs 30:5** The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

- Psalm 119:140 Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.

Growing in the knowledge of God through His Word is how a Christian grows in their Christian life and how sanctification is progressed.

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Taste the kindness of the Lord (verse 3)

Those who have born again have tasted the kindness of God in His grace and mercy toward His elect. The Bible gives a continual invitation to continue to taste and see the Lord is good via His Word.

- Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- Titus 3: 4-5 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

The Living Stone (verse 4)

Christ is the living stone. He is the living stone because of His resurrection. He is alive forever and as a result of His resurrection all believers are called to a living hope (1 Peter 1:3). Christ was rejected by men, but was chosen before the foundation of the world to redeem His people (1 Peter 1:20) and is precious in the sight of the Father. Not only is Christ precious to the Father, the blood of Christ which is what redeems His sheep is precious (1 Peter 1:18-19) as it is unblemished and the only means of ransom for His people.

Living stones, spiritual house, holy priesthood (verse 5)

Christ is the living stone who is the cornerstone of the spiritual house. His believers are also referred to as living stones. We are referred to as living stones because we have been born again until spiritual life. As Jesus is the stone that is living, chosen, and precious to God, His believers are also referred to as living stones that have been chosen. We have been united with Him in His death and we are united with Him in His resurrection (**Romans 6:3-5**). Our hope of our inheritance in Heaven and being resurrected with Christ is living because He is living.

Every believer is a stone that is being placed to be built up into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. One must keep in mind that if a stone is left sitting on the ground it cannot on its own put itself into place, but rather is dependent on someone to pick it up and place it where it belongs. The believer at the time of their earthly salvation is picked up by God and placed in their proper place in the spiritual house of God. In the OT testament the temple of the spiritual house is where the presence of God was and where He dwelled among them. Now, He dwells in every believer via the Holy Spirit so we are the spiritual house of God.

The role of the priesthood in the OT was primarily offer sacrifices to God. In **Revelation 1:5-6**, the Bible records that those who have been released from their sins by the blood of Christ have been made into a kingdom of priests. All the stones who are the believers are referred to as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood because we are to now as the priest would do in the OT, we are to offer up sacrifices. We no longer offer up animal sacrifices as they did in the OT. The sacrifices that we are to offer up are the sacrifices of our bodies and the sacrifice of praise to God.

- o **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, ^(a)acceptable to God, *which is your ^(b)spiritual service of worship.* ² And do not be conformed to this ^(c)world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^(d)prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^(e)acceptable and perfect.
- o **Hebrews 13:15-16** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that ^(a)give thanks to His name. ¹⁶ And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Our sacrifices are acceptable to God only through Christ. He is our mediator and our only access to the Father. Christ is who makes our worship acceptable to the Father. Apart from Christ our worship would not be acceptable to God.

The Cornerstone (verse 6)

Jesus is referred to as a precious cornerstone. A cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a foundation. All other stones are set in reference to the cornerstone and will determine the position of the entire structure.

- **Psalm 118:22-29** The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. ²³ This is ^uthe LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ O LORD, do save, we beseech You; O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity! ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and He has given us light; Bind the festival sacrifice with cords ^uto the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I give thanks to You; *You are* my God, I extol You. ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- **Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus says the Lord ^lGod, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, ^lfirmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be ^ldisturbed.

Jesus is the cornerstone, and the foundation is the made up of the apostles and prophets as they brought the words of God. Then each believer is place on top of this foundation which has been set in line and place by Christ, the cornerstone.

- **Ephesians 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the ^lsaints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy ^ltemple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

All who believe in Him will never be disappointed but will find a perfect savior. All that call on His name will be saved (**Romans 10:13**).