

# Babies GROW

## 1 Peter 2:1-3

Hebrews 6:1-9

Ephesians 4:11-16



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### THEREFORE . . . (1 Peter 2:1)

- Transition from doctrine to application.
- This “therefore” - back to chapter 1 and the great salvation.
- BECAUSE of God’s abundant grace and mercy this is how we should live. God’s grace comes with OBLIGATIONS!
- Grace demand a response from us.

### “Since You Have Tasted” (1 Peter 2:3)

- (1 Peter 1) Since . . .
  - ① You were **CHOSEN** by God. (v. 2)
  - ② You were **SANCTIFIED** by the Spirit of God “for obedience”. (v. 2)
  - ③ You were **SPRINKLED** by the blood of Christ. (v. 2)
  - ④ You were **BEGOTTEN AGAIN** by the Father. (v. 3, 23)
  - ⑤ You have become “**HEIRS of GOD**”. (vv. 4-5)
  - ⑥ You have received the **SALVATION** of your soul. (vv. 6-9)
  - ⑦ You are commanded to **BE HOLY in all your conduct**. (vv. 13-16)
  - ⑧ You were **REDEEMED** by the **precious** blood of Christ. (vv. 18-21)
  - ⑨ You are commanded to **FERVENTLY** love the brethren. (v. 22)
  - ⑩ You were born again through the instrument of God’s **ETERNAL WORD**. (vv. 23-25)
- Since . . . you ought (are obligated) . . .

### RESPONSE: Lay Aside **ALL Sin** (1 Peter 2:1)

- Peter uses the word ἀποτιθήμι which means “to cast off”; “to get rid of”; “put away”; “put off”; “reject”.
  - ★ Peter uses the **MIDDLE voice** emphasizing that we must do this ourselves. See 2 Corinthians 7:1.
  - ★ Peter uses the **PARTICIPLE MOOD** which convey that this is something that we must continually do.
  - ★ Since we were “clothed with the garments of salvation and covered with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10) we need to take off our **filthy** garments. (Zech 3:3; Isaiah 64:6)

- ★ Paul uses similar language - Colossians 3:8, 12; Romans 13:14 - as does James in 1:21; and the writer of Hebrews 12:1.
- Peter lists five general categories of sin that Christians must put off:
  - ① **ALL** malice – a general term for sins committed against other humans.
  - ② **ALL** deceit – all falsehood, dishonesty, guile.
  - ③ Hypocrisies – insincerity, pretense, not genuine.
  - ④ Envy – resenting others leading to bitterness, hatred, and fights.
  - ⑤ **ALL** evil speaking – gossip, slander, defaming another’s character.

## RESPONSE: Crave the Word of God (1 Peter 2:2)

- “like new born babies” – Peter modifies βρέφος brephos {bref-os} which means “newborn”, “infant”, “baby” with the adjective ἀρτιγέννητος which means “just born”!
- A “just born” infant CRAVES his/her mother’s milk. An infant drinks **often**. An infant cries out when he/she does not have his/her milk!
- “desire” is ἐπιποθέω which is a strong word denoting “to long for”; “to pursue”; “to greatly desire”; “to earnest desire”. Peter uses the **IMPERATIVE MOOD** indicating that this is something that we **MUST** do.
  - (2 Corinthians 5:2) Christians “earnestly desire” and groan for heaven.
  - (Psalm 42:1) David speaks of “panting” of God. (Psalm 63:1-2)
  - (Psalm 119:174) David longs for God’s salvation and God’s Word (Law) is his delight!
- “pure” is ἄδολος is “unmixed”; “unadulterated”; “pure”; “sincere”. As those who are born-again we are earnestly long for unmixed God’s Word.
  - Paul several times warns us about those who “**poison**” the pure Word of God with the teachings of men. (2 Corinthians 4:2; 2:17; 11:3, 13-15; Ephesians 4:14; 1 Thess 2:3-5; 2 Thess 2:10-11; Isaiah 30:9-15)
- A disciple of Christ (all Christians) - treasure, delight in, love, meditate, rejoice in the PURE MILK of God’s Word!

## RESPONSE: “That You May Grow” (v. 2)

- Peter uses the PASSIVE voice. Literally the phrase is “it may grow you”. “It” is the Word of God.
- The Word of God is God’s instrument for our growth.
  - ★ Without the Word of God we **cannot** and **will not** grow.
  - ★ In 2 Peter 3:17-18, we are **commanded** to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”.
  - ★ Our Lord taught, “Man does not live on bread alone but on every word of God.” (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4; Deut 8:3)
  - ★ When we stop **feeding/living** on the **pure written** Word of God we stop growing. We begin to go “backwards”. (Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6; 32:33; Hosea 11:7)

- MORE PICTURES of GOD's WORD: Solid food (Hebrews 5:12-14); double edged sword (Hebrews 4:12); fire and hammer (Jeremiah 23:29; 5:14; 20:9); lamp/light (Psalm 119:105; 43:3; Proverbs 6:23); map (Psalm 119:30)
- (2 Thess 1:3) "your faith grows exceedingly" - luxuriantly, good, healthy, **fruitful**.
- (Psalm 92:13-14) "Those planted in the house of God shall flourish . . ."
- (John 15:8) God is glorified with we bear MUCH FRUIT - much GROWTH.
- (Psalm 1:1-3) How does one become fruitful - by delighting in and meditating day and night on God's Word.
- (1 Timothy 4:15-16) Growth is visible to others.
- ★ (Ephesians 4:11-16) **A Christian's growth is IMPORTANT to the growth of the Body of Christ - the Church! Are you growing IN THE BODY?**

## RESPONSE: Things that Accompany Salvation (Hebrews 6:9)

- ★ **BELOVED** (v. 9)
  - "beloved" ἀγαπητός is used 60 times in the New Testament.
  - It is **NEVER** used for unbelievers.
  - The first 9 times it is used by God the Father in speaking of Christ.
  - Those who are **"in Christ"** are loved as God loves Christ. (John 17:23)
  - The LOVE spoken here of is a love regulated by **PRINCIPLE** and not **IMPULSE**.
  - This kind of LOVE seeks the **HIGHEST GOOD** for its objects.
  - One who possesses such a love is willing to give ALL (including his own life) to the object of this love. (1 John 3:16)
- "things that accompany salvation" . . . here are some things:
  - (2 Corinthians 3:18) "being transformed into the same image" - with Romans 8:29 and 2 Corinthians 4:16; Proverbs 4:18.
  - (1 Timothy 4:7-8) They exercise themselves in godliness.
  - (Jude 21; 2 Timothy 2:21) They keep themselves "spiritually healthy". (Proverbs 4:23; John 14:21; 15:9-10; )
  - (2 Corinthians 7:1) They regularly cleanse themselves from all the filthiness of their flesh and spirit. (1 John 3:3; 1:9; James 4:8)
  - (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27) They abstain from that which is not spiritually healthy. (2 Timothy 2:22-23; Psalm 1:1)
  - (1 Peter 2:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14) They "eat and drink" healthy. Their "diet" consists of "pure milk of Scripture" and the "solid food of Scripture" that enables them to grow.
  - (Romans 12:1-2) He keeps his mind healthy by continually renewing it by studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word. They know that is the only thing that really is necessary in this life. (Luke 10:42)
  - (James 1:22) They practice (do) what they learn. (Luke 11:28; Matthew 12:50; 1 John 3:3-10)
  - Because one who has been "born from above" has a NEW heart he loves God. Love is demonstrated by **obedience**. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 6)

- Because God has put His Spirit within HIS CHILD, His child now desires to and walks in the ways of God. (1 John 3:24; Ezekiel 36:27)
- Because he has a NEW HEART that loves God, he loves the children of God. (1 John 5:1; John 13:34-35)
  - This love is NOT in word or talk, but in **DEED** and TRUTH. (1 John 3:18) Biblical love is DEMONSTRATED. Biblical love is an ACTION word.
- Because he has God's Law written on his NEW heart, he loves God's Law and God's commandments are not a burden to him. (1 John 5:3; Hebrews 8:10-12; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:47, 48, 97, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 167)
- Because he has a NEW heart and a NEW Spirit, he **hates** what God hates. Psalms 119:104, 128)
- Because Christ is his LORD, it is a **delight** to **serve** his Lord. (Col 3:23-24; Matthew 4:10; 6:24; 20:26-28; Luke 1:74; 16:13; 17:7-10; 22:27; Acts 27:23; Romans 1:25; 7:6; 14:18; 1 Thess 1:9; Hebrews 9:14; 12:28; Romans 1:1 with 1 Cor 11:1); Philippians 2:5-8)
- EVERY CHRISTIAN, when they are born-again, IS GIVEN A GIFT TO BE USED TO MINISTER TO OTHER CHRISTIANS WITHIN A LOCAL CHURCH.
  - Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:1-27
  - ★ There is no such thing as a Christian not serving his/her local church and in so doing cause the entire Body to grow.

## Growing as a Disciple . . .

- ❶ Realize that God's grace comes with obligations. God demands/ commands His children to live according to His Word.
  - ☆ We are commanded to live on **every** Word of God. (Luke 4:4)
- ❷ KNOW that, though we are saved, we are still prone to the sins listed in verse 1. Therefore, we must pray that we do not fall into temptation! (Matt 6:13; 26:41) We are to **FERVENTLY LOVE** the brethren. (1 Peter 1:22)
- ❸ We must dress ourselves daily. We are to PUT OFF sins and PUT ON Christ and His qualities. (**Ephesians 4:22-25**; Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27)
- ❹ Evidence that you have been born-again is a **deep longing desire** for the **pure** Word of God. (Psalm 42:1; 1 Peter 2:2)
- ❺ Do we consider God's Word more necessary than our physical food? (Job 23:12)
- ❻ Without diligent Bible study **and** obedience of God's Word we will not grow but go BACKWARDS. (Hebrews 5:12-14; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6)
- ❼ We are commanded to use our God-given gift inside a local church being an important part of the entire Body's growth. (Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)