

Intro: Why does the 21st century church suffer from the lack of spiritual power? Might it be b/c we have forgotten our source of life?

IX. Desiring God's Word

A. Remembering Our Source of Life - vs 1a

1. Therefore

- a. refers back to 1:22-25 - our redemption through the imperishable seed,
 - i. the word of God which endures forever
 - ii. The gospel that produces the new birth
- b. "Therefore" was a concise reminder of the power of God's word
 - i. it was through God's word that He saved us - Ro 1:16; 1Co 4:15; Jas 1:18
 - ii. it is through God's word that He transforms us - Ro 12:2; 2Co 3:18; Eph 5:23; Col 3:10

2. other scriptures that have concise reminders about the necessity of God's word

- a. Ps 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.
- b. Ps 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.
- c. Isa 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
- d. Mt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
- e. Ac 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
- f. Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

B. Putting Off Our Sins - vs 1b

1. laying aside - Eph 4:22; Col 3:8; Heb 12:1; Jas 1:21;

- a. *apotithemi* - to put away:--cast off, lay apart (aside, down), put away (off).
- b. Applied to any kind of rejection
- c. Sometimes referred to stripping off dirty garments
- d. a prerequisite to sustaining the desire for God's word
- e. process of change in a Christian's life
 - i. initially, change happens in the big things,
 - ii. Then, stagnation or very slow growth due to
 - becoming comfortable with where we are in our spiritual walk
 - not believing what God says about our nature

2. What are we putting off

- a. all - used here 3 times to emphasize totality
- b. all malice
 - i. *kakia* - badness, depravity, or (actively) malignity, or (passively) trouble:--evil, malice(-iousness), naughtiness, wickedness.
 - ii. desiring to harm someone else

c. all deceit - Eph 4:25

i. **dolos** - a trick (bait), wile:--craft, deceit, guile, subtilty.

ii. Lit. refers to bait or a fishhook

d. hypocrisy

i. **hupokrisis** - acting under a feigned part, deceit ("hypocrisy"):--condemnation, dissimulation, hypocrisy.

ii. Refers to spiritual insincerity and pretense

iii. Describes any behavior that is not genuine or consistent with what we profess that we believe

e. envy

i. **phthonos** - ill-will (as detraction), i.e. jealousy (spite):--envy.

ii. Defines the attitude of those who resent others b/c of their prosperity

iii. Often leads to grudges, bitterness, hatred, and conflict

f. all evil speaking,

i. **katalalia** - defamation:--backbiting, evil speaking.

ii. A word designed to sound like the whispers behind someone's back

C. Admitting Our Need - vs 2a

1. as newborn babes

a. **artigennetos** - just born, i.e. (figuratively) a young convert:--new born.

b. **brephos** - an infant (properly, unborn):--babe, (young) child, infant.

c. point emphasized by using both terms

2. desire

a. **epipotheo** - to dote upon, intensely crave possession (lawfully or wrongfully):--(earnestly) desire (greatly), (greatly) long (after), lust.

i. used 7 times - Ro 1:11; 2 Co 5:2; 9:14; Phil 1:8; 2:26; 1 Th 3:6; 2 Ti 1:4

ii. Expresses an intense, recurring, insatiable desire or passion - Ps 42:1; 119:174;

b. imperative commanding believers to strongly desire or crave something

3. the pure milk of the word,

a. **adolos** - undeceitful, unadulterated:--sincere.

b. **logikos** - rational ("logical"):--reasonable, of the word.

i. not the normal translation - Ro 12:1 - spiritual, reasonable

ii. Originally rendered "belonging to speech" or "reason"

4. Peter command is not to read, study, meditate, teach, preach, search, or memorize the word

i. The focus is on a more foundational level which believers need in order to pursue anything

ii. what kills desire

- sin

- Filling the desire with a replacement

D. Pursuing Our Spiritual Growth - vs 2b

1. that - purpose

2. you may grow thereby

a. **auxano** - to grow ("wax"), enlarge (literal or figurative, active or passive):--grow (up), (give the) increase.

i. passive verb - lit. it may grow you

ii. used the same verb in 2Pe 3:18 - but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

b. implies the necessity of discontent with present spiritual condition

i. **Phil 3:7-14; 2 Pe 1:5-10**

ii. Motivation for genuine spiritual growth comes from discontent coupled with sincere desire for more

E. Examining Ourselves in Respect to Blessings - vs 3

1. if indeed

a. begins a conditional clause that explains the facts or conditions necessary for the proposition to be true

b. if saved, desire the word

2. you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

a. *geuomai* - to eat; *to experience* (good or ill):--eat, taste.

b. *chrestos* - employed, useful (in manner or morals):--better, easy, good(-ness), gracious, kind.

c. if they had already experienced God's graciousness through salvation, they would want more

i. they should respond by pursuing holiness - 1:13-21

ii. they should respond by loving others in the church - 1:22-25

iii. they should respond by continually desiring God's word - 2:1-3

Ps 119:140-142 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.