

Craving God's Word

1 Peter 2:1-3

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Healthy people eat
- Lack of appetite is a sign of other problems in the body
- Famine—not only physical but spiritual famine in the world
- Lack of spiritual hunger in America, even among Christians
- The Word of God and Christian living
 - 1 Peter 1:22-25-- *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."*
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God
 - Romans 10:17-- *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."*

Craving God's Word

- 1 Peter 2:1-3-- *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*

A. Signs of a Healthy Appetite

- 1 Peter 2:2-- *"as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"*
1. We are to be like "newborn babes", craving God's Word.
 2. Commanded to "desire" —intense, recurring, insatiable desire
 3. The "Pure" milk of the Word
 - Hebrews 5:12-14-- *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk, and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is babe. But solid food belongs to those who are full of age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*
 - a. "pure" —unadulterated, uncontaminated
 - 2 Corinthians 4:2-- *"But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*
 - John 8:31-32-- *"if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*
 - b. "of the word" —logical, reasonable, or the Scriptures
 - Psalm 119:140-- *"Your word is very pure; Therefore your servants love it."*

B. Suppressants of a Healthy Appetite

- 1 Peter 2:1-- *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking... as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word."*
1. Anger or Malice
 - James 1:19-21-- *"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."*
 2. Dishonesty
 - a. "Deceit" (inward) and "Hypocrisy" (outward)
 - James 1:22-- *"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*
 - b. Hunger for God's Word is born out of "need"
 - c. Failure to apply what we know leads to lack of hunger.
 3. Eyes on another table—envy
 - Matthew 13:22-- *"Now he who received the seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."*
 4. Critical Talk about others, "evil speaking"

C. Restoring a Healthy Appetite

- 1 Peter 2:1-- *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking"*
1. The Process explained
 - Ephesians 4:20-24-- *"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*
 2. First Step: Put off or "Lay aside"
 - Colossians 3:8-10-- *"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouths. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."*
 3. Final Step: Put On
 - Colossians 3:12-14 -- *"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."*
 4. Key Step: Renewing the Mind and transformation by the Spirit
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18-- *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

D. Caution: Lack of appetite may indicate a lack of faith

- 1 Peter 2:3-- *"if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious"*
1. The need to regularly remind ourselves of the benefits of our salvation.
 - Lamentations 3:22-- *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail no. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness."*
 2. Lack of hunger may be due to lack of faith.