

Are You Hungry?

Ponder: Hungering for God's word.

Scripture: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2, NKJV).

How hungry you feel affects the taste of food. After a big meal, you might forego dessert until later. You want to enjoy the delicious taste, and it won't taste nearly as good when you aren't hungry for it.

Scripture likens God's word to food – milk and meat. David likened it to honey (Psalm 19:10). Solomon observed that someone with a full stomach has no desire for honey – in fact, he despises it. But to one who is hungry, even something bitter may seem sweet (Prov. 27:7).

Are you hungry for God's word? Peter exhorted in 1 Pet. 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." Hungry babies won't take "no" for an answer. You either feed them or be prepared to hear about it! We should desire God's word that way. "Desire" means to long for, to desire earnestly. You crave it! You simply must have it!

Peter said to desire the "pure" milk of the word. Pure means it isn't watered down or contaminated with foreign substances. Watered down food isn't very nourishing, and contaminated food can make you sick! The same is true of God's word. Diluting it weakens its effect, and contaminating it with human traditions misleads souls rather than strengthening them.

Peter pointed to the goal: that we may grow. We want babies to grow, gradually maturing into adulthood. A diet of pure, wholesome food helps that process. Likewise, a steady diet of God's word helps us grow and mature in Christ. God didn't call us to remain static. We must grow, and that involves "eating" a steady diet of the milk and meat of His word.

Something is wrong when a child has no appetite. Likewise, something is wrong when a child of God doesn't crave His word. We are blessed with an environment where Bibles are readily available. We can read, study, and meditate on it whenever we wish. We can also listen while others teach us.

Nothing else can nourish us like God's word. I hope you hunger for it and satisfy that hunger with regular times of personal study as well as participating in worship assemblies and online classes.

Hymn: "Break Thou The Bread Of Life"

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your word that nourishes our souls. Help us to crave it as babies crave milk. In Jesus' name, Amen.