



## Lesson #6: It's Time to Grow (1 Peter 2:1-4)

The most important growth in your life is personal and \_\_\_\_\_. Peter is writing to Christians. He's already told them in chapter 1 that they have been born again by the power of the Word. Now, he issues a challenge. "Therefore," writes Peter, because you've been made a new person, because of that Word of God is eternal, it's time to \_\_\_\_\_.

Our struggle is that we don't take Peter's challenge seriously. We long for the things of this \_\_\_\_\_ more than the things of the \_\_\_\_\_. We willfully stay right where we are. But we must grow, we need to grow, it is essential! And in order for growth to take place we need to get into God's Word.

More than the food that you eat, you must have God's Word! Cut out all else if you must; but, **you must have \_\_\_\_\_ in your life to \_\_\_\_\_**. God's Word not only imparts new life to us, it nurtures and sustains it. Apart from it, we will shrivel and die. In this passage Peter gives us the 3 essentials of God's Word.

### THE ESSENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE WORD FOR GROWTH

You could spend many messages here, raving over all the Bible. But let's limit ourselves to the ingredients Peter lists in 2:2.

- A. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_**  
The Greek word "*sincere*" (2:2) literally means, not \_\_\_\_\_. It is the root of the Greek word translated "*guile*" in verse 1 except this time it has an alpha added to the front, which negates the meaning. It means unaltered, not \_\_\_\_\_ down. The Bible tells you the honest truth about yourself.
- B. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_**  
The literal translation of verse 2 is that we should long for "*the pure spiritual milk*." The Word "*spiritual*" also means "\_\_\_\_\_." The only other time this word occurs in the Bible is in Romans 12:1, where Paul says that presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice to God is our "*spiritual [or \_\_\_\_\_] service of worship*." This means that God does not bypass the central processing units that reside between our ears (our \_\_\_\_\_) in order to lead us to salvation.

### THE ESSENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE WORD FOR GROWTH

There's a command to be found in 2:2. It's a command to really \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Word.

- A. You need the Word to grow you as a \_\_\_\_\_**  
God's Word is just as essential to your spiritual growth as milk is to a baby's physical growth. The word translated "*desire*" or "*long for*" (2:2) is the same word found in Psalm 42:1, where the \_\_\_\_\_ pants for the water brooks. Just as God designed milk to be the perfect nutrition for a newborn baby, so God designed His Word to be the perfect source of spiritual growth for His \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. You need the Word to \_\_\_\_\_ you as an \_\_\_\_\_**  
At whatever stage you find yourself spiritually, the answer for what you need in order to grow is the Word of God.
- 1 Peter 2:2 – The Word is described as \_\_\_\_\_
  - Matthew 4:4 – The Word is described as \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hebrews 5:12&14 – The Word is described as \_\_\_\_\_
- God's Word is your milk; your bread, and your meat – at whatever stage you are in you need it. You never \_\_\_\_\_ your need for God's Word.

### THE ESSENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE WORD IN GROWTH

"*That you may grow.*" This is your primary goal. This is your motivation.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ – You must put off relational sins**  
In the context, it is clear that the relational sins listed in 2:1 will hinder you from having a right response to the \_\_\_\_\_. Peter is warning us. He is saying, "If you have unfinished business with your brethren don't expect to get anything out of the Word of God."
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ – You must focus on the kindness of God**  
For Peter, Christ is Lord (as 2:4 makes clear). Peter is quoting from Psalm 34 in this verse. Here he is referring especially to the kindness or \_\_\_\_\_ that was shown to us when we trusted Christ as our Savior and Lord. Since you have tasted of that grace you should then be motivated to grow in grace.

### Concluding Thoughts

Do you crave the Word in your life? If you don't have a craving for God's Word, there could be several reasons:

- Maybe you've never tasted the Lord's grace in \_\_\_\_\_
- Maybe you have unconfessed \_\_\_\_\_ in your life
- Maybe you have ruined your \_\_\_\_\_ by feasting on the junk food of the world.

It's time to pick up our Bibles and start growing. Read the Word! Hunger for God's truth! Drink it in like a hungry infant. You've got to have it above all else.