

**PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY:
OVERCOMING EVIL BY SAVORING GOD'S GOODNESS**

Houses of Light Church • April 2-3, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 2:1-3

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

I. NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO DO OUR PART

- A. ***“Therefore”*** This word refers to what Peter has previously spoken about that we have been born again (v.23) by the seed that is the Word of God that lives and abides forever and therefore this new life that we have lasts forever and this gives us an unshakeable security about our future. That word is the good news that is being preached to us.
- B. Therefore, because you have been born again and have an unshakable hope ***“therefore put away, [forsake] what is evil”*** This teaches us that the **commandments of the Bible are based on the work of God and are to activate us.** *God has done something now you do your part, you get rid of these bad feelings and bad practices because they do not go according to your new life.*
- C. Since God has renewed you by the new birth and you have an unshakable hope, **now become what you already are.** Align your life in accordance with the new life that operates in you, getting rid of evil, deception, hypocrisy, envy, slander.
- D. ***“Like newborn babies”*** Peter is not only speaking to newly converted **Christians.** The analogy here is that when you are born again, then you are going to do what babies do, ***“crave spiritual milk”*** which obviously refers to the Word of God. **So just as you were brought into existence by the Word of God now continue to desire it so that you will be sustained by it. The same word that gave birth to us sustains us.**

II. TASTING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- A. v.3 ***“now that you have tasted that the Lord is good”*** This having tasted the **kindness of the Lord refers to whether you have tasted and found in the Word that the Lord is good.** Anyone can read the Word, you do not have to be born again to read the Word **but if you prove in the Word of God the goodness of the Lord it is because you have been born again.** If you see the Lord and know the goodness of him in Jesus Christ in the gospel, then it is the evidence that you have been born again. **And when you taste the milk it is that you grow for salvation and abandon evil.**

- B. ***"crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation"***
The purpose of desiring milk is that we can grow to salvation, which leads us to the question, then are we already saved or are we just going to be? Of course we are saved because we have already been born again and have passed from death to new life as children of God:

1 Pet. 1:5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time"

- C. We can see how salvation in the letters of the apostle Peter is mainly a future reality, although it also has a present dimension as v. 1:9 ***"for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*** So we are growing unto salvation, which means that we are going to come to the fullness of salvation, although we are certainly already saved, **but we are still being saved while we grow rejecting evil.**
- D. So the lesson here is that the Christian life should not be thought of as something automatic, rather it is an organic and dynamic process: we are born and therefore we drink the milk and then we grow and therefore we reach salvation. **Never think that eating and drinking the Word of God and growing by it is something optional or something lateral in the Christian life; it is as essential in the spiritual as it is in the natural and this does not minimize our security and our confidence because our hope is unshakeable because the power of God is keeping us through faith unto salvation (v.1:5).**
- E. Our security is not based on the fact that once we believe we are automatically out of trouble; our safety lies in God keeping his own (1:5). God produced the faith that leads to salvation and does so by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17) and that is what Peter is saying: **Milk is what allows us to savor the goodness of God and that goodness is what feeds our faith that makes us grow for salvation. And this gives us the ability to abandon all kinds of malice...**

III. THE RESULT IS THAT WE ABANDON ALL FORMS OF EVIL

- A. ***"herefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind"*** What Peter is telling us is that this milk that tastes of the goodness or mercy of the Lord allows us to grow for salvation because we abandon all forms of lack of love.
- B. So the logic is: because we have been born again we are going to act in a new way which is to love one another. Peter says: Then, since you have been born again, separate yourselves from all malice and this produces the sincere love that he spoke to us about before.

v. 1:22 "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."

- C. Love abandons all malice and deceit; love does not deceive; love is not hypocritical on the contrary it is sincere, honest and truthful; love does not envy or slander (**1 Cor. 13:4-6**). You are not only born again but you also grow to salvation and then this love is expressed because by continuously drinking this milk, which is precisely the goodness of God, we grow to salvation. **Growth is expressed in turning away from all malice.**
- D. **Therefore a specific strategy to overcome malice, deception, hypocrisy, envy and slander is to drink and drink of God's goodness. Immerse yourself in the Lord and satisfy your soul with the milk of his goodness.**
- E. **We are going to see each one of these deep feelings in our soul that do not go away so easily and that give rise to other sins but that the new birth and also the desire as a newborn child for pure spiritual milk will free us from this:**
1. **Malice** it is a disposition of the heart to want to hurt others; have a rude and rude spirit towards them. Now the kind of wickedness that Peter is referring to is the one that turns into...
 2. **Deception**, so there is something in our hearts that wants people to believe something that is not true and what it produces is...
 3. **Hypocrisy**: which is a kind of deeper deception that is expressed outwardly falsely. This hypocrisy says: I don't want you to know the real me; I want to keep hiding things about myself. Behind this fear and hypocrisy is a fear of being known as I really am.
 4. **Envy**: It is what I feel towards others, not only that I am ashamed of my failures but that I am resentful of your successes. Envy sees the achievements or the growth or simply something good that happened to the other person and does not like it, we want it to happen to us but we are not happy that it happened to them. It's okay to want good things to happen to us but it's not okay to think: 'I don't want it to have happened to them but to me and if you don't stop envy then you can start falling into what follows...
 5. **Slander**, which is saying negative things about those you envy in order to defame the good things that happened to others. **Envy and slander are the opposite of God's goodness; they show our frustrations and lack of contentment in God.** Envy and slander are saying: 'you bother me because you are successful, you have achieved something or you look better than me, you are stronger than me or you are richer than me or you have what I don't have and that makes me unhappy and What I'm going to do is say negative things about you that bring you down so that I don't feel so inferior to you.'
- F. **There is a sense of insecurity and evil that has to be overcome by savoring the goodness of the Lord by drinking the pure spiritual milk of the Word.**

When you drink it, desire it, taste it and long for it and satisfy yourself in the goodness of God and know that He has caused you to be born again by His mercy, not by your own merits, **this desire to be false goes away and you can be well and content. with the person you have become by being in Him; then the power of hypocrisy and deceit is broken.**

IV. WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

- A. It is the contentment that comes when we drink the pure spiritual milk of the Word of God because what we are drinking is the goodness, the mercy of Him and if our souls are satisfied with this sweet taste of the goodness of God then we will not fall into malice, deceit, nor sends or slander, it no longer tastes good to us. This is a wonderful freedom, not only when you know you must change, but when you have been so changed by God's satisfying goodness.

Heb. 13:5-6 *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"*

Psal. 34:8 *"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him"*

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do God's commandments motivate us to action?
2. How do you grow for salvation? Explain
3. How are you savoring God's goodness?

THIS WEEKS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **INNER HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN** April 29-30 there will be English translation (You can register in the Bookstore or online).
- **YARD SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MISSIONARY TRIP TO THE ORPHANAGE:** **Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m.** (Please bring clothing and items in good condition that we can sell during services or to the office)
- **SCHOOL CLASSES FOR PARENTS AND FOR CHILDREN PRESENTATION** Begin **March 30 at 7:00 p.m.** (Please register Information Booth).
- **Corporate Prayer Gathering Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.** • **BREAKFAST TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HOUSE OF PRAYER: Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m.** All who wish to support are invited. We will have Niko Gaggero from Upperroom as a worship leader. (Please register at the entrance table).
- **5 RESURRECTION SERVICES APRIL 16 AND 17 BRING YOUR 3 GUESTS: SATURDAY 5:00 PM (SPANISH) AND 7:00 PM (ENGLISH)**

• **SUNDAY 8:30 AM** (SPANISH) • **10:30 AM** (SPANISH) • **12:30 PM** (BILINGUAL)