Cultivating a Hunger for God's Word

1 Peter 2:1-3

PART TWO

Review

I. *Recall* the purpose for which the Word of God was implanted in you (1:23).
II. *Renounce* the sins that hinder your spiritual growth. (2:1).
III. *Recognize* the immeasurable value of God's Word in you. (2:2).
IV. *Relish* the goodness of God that motivates you (2:3).

I. *Recall* the purpose for which the Word of God was implanted in you.

"*since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God*" (1:23).

II. *Renounce* the sins that hinder your spiritual growth.

"*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander*" (v1).

1. Malice is replaced with *Purity*
2. Deceit is replaced with *Verity*
3. Hypocrisy is replaced with *Sincerity*
4. Envy is replaced with *Humility*
5. Slander is replaced with *Charity*

III. *Recognize* the immeasurable value of God's Word in you.

"*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—*" (v2).

IV. *Relish* the goodness of God which motivates you.

"*if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good*" (v3).

PART TWO

The Insatiable Desire of a Hungry Heart

Matthew 4:1-4

The problem is not our physical hunger. The problem is that our heart is sinful and so our *spiritual* hunger is misdirected.

The craving of the flesh runs deeper than our thoughts, but constantly seeks to invade them.

The danger of craving a 'good thing'

"Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat!" (Number 11:4).

"While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck down the people with a very great plague. Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving" (Numbers 11:33-35).

"But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel. But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness, and put God to the test in the desert; he gave them what they asked, but sent a wasting disease/leanness into their soul (NKJ) among them" (Psalm 106:13-15).

Be careful. God will give you what you want.

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

When 'good things' become 'bad things'

1) Work
2) Spouse
3) Family
4) Friendship
5) Recreation
6) Health
7) Finances
8) Food
9) Possessions
10) Acceptance & Approval

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5)

"*covetousness*" from the Gk word ***pleonexia***; *pleon* = 'more'; and, *exo* = 'to have.'

Charles Bridges: "Man is always seeking for what he can never find—satisfaction in earthly things. He toils after his object, and when he has grasped it, he toils still; the possessor of abundance, not of happiness."

"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep" (Ecclesiastes 5:10-12).

The antidote for covetousness, or craving earthly things, is *contentment*. It is to be fully satisfied:

1) in all that God *is*, with respect to His **Person**: His attributes, His character; His promises.

2) in all that He *does*, with respect to His **Providence**: our circumstances in life, and whether we are prospering or suffering.

3) in all that He *gives*, with respect to His **Provision**: everything we have been given financially and materially.

Contentment forms in the heart of the person who loves God and trusts in Him completely.

contentment is the soul's worship (Jeremiah Burroughs).

"If you are to have God as your supreme good, you must empty your heart of earth and worldly things, or your possession of Him will be all words, and imagination and hypocrisy" (Alexander Maclaren)

"All the happiness of this life is but trying to quench thirst out of golden empty cups" (Wm. Law).

'I have been everything, and it profits me nothing.' (Roman Emperor).

Seek Him who alone is fully satisfying

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works" (Psalm 73:25-28).