

I. The Longing For The Word of God A Saint Should Have (v1-v3)

- A. Since you have been saved by the enduring Word of God to love God and to love others, long to draw upon the Word of God like a new born baby longs for milk.
- B. To long to draw upon the Word of God is to desire to read, study, and learn God's Word which is the nourishment of spiritual life in Jesus Christ. The Word of God nourishes and sustains you in the spiritual life you have in Christ as milk nourishes and sustains the physical life of a baby. Therefore, one is to feed on God's Word as a baby feeds on milk.
- C. The purpose of longing to draw upon the Word of God like a newborn baby longs for milk is so that you may move to feed on the Word of God to continue to grow in your salvation (progressive sanctification). In other words, as your desire moves to actually reading, studying, and learning God's Word, you should be developing and continuing to develop in living and loving like Christ did on earth as a result of reading, studying and learning God's Word.
- D. As you feed on God's Word like a newborn baby feeds on milk, the result should be a maturing love for God and a maturing love for others leading ultimately to becoming like Jesus Christ in perfect maturity, thus accomplishing the end result of your salvation and the benefits that follow.

II. The Logical Next Step Of A Saint (v1-v3)

- A. In order to draw upon the word of God to continue to grow in your salvation resulting in a maturing love for God and love for others, you must put aside:
 - 1. Malice – to have ill will towards another within the heart
 - 2. Deceit – to be cunning toward another to lie to them deliberately to obtain something illegitimately or to keep something from their awareness
 - 3. Hypocrisy – pretending to have holiness and love, but truly being unholy and unloving
 - 4. Envy – being resentful towards someone for having what you do not have, and being discontent with what you have
 - 5. Slander – speaking ill-will towards someone or speaking lies about someone
- B. To put aside means you must choose to no longer choose to live in this manner.

- C. In order to put aside these things you must choose to practice:
 - 1. To develop in good will towards another within the heart
 - 2. To develop in honesty towards others
 - 3. To develop in integrity in one's character; to develop in holiness and love instead of pretending to be holy and loving
 - 4. To develop in being happy at the advancement of others while being content and thankful for what God has allotted to you
 - 5. To develop in speaking well of people or saying nothing at all; to minister words that will give grace to those who hear; not speaking unless it is for edification of others in order to give grace to those who hear

- D. This pursuit is only logical if you have truly tasted the kindness of God's salvation of your soul and His Word. Unless one has truly found a new life in Jesus Christ and enjoyed the benefits of God's Word, he or she will have no desire for and development in learning God's Word, living God's Word, loving others according to God's Word and putting aside evil practices that keep one from this desire and development.

III. The Life-Altering Position The Saint Has In Christ (v4-v10)

- A. You who feed on the Word of God are coming to our Lord and Savior as a pursuer of intimate fellowship with Him who was rejected by men but is choice and precious in the sight of God.

- B. You are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. You are being transformed into the perfect image of Christ as a unit of believers who, like a priest offers up sacrifices, offers their sacrifices – the praise of God and giving their body to be useful to God as He wishes along with doing good to others (Hebrews 13:15, Romans 12:1).

- C. You who have believed in Jesus Christ have found the precious value and those who have not will stumble and ultimately be destroyed forever which is the consequence of rejecting Jesus Christ who is the Chief Cornerstone of the House of God.

- D. In Jesus Christ, you are:
 - 1. A Chosen Race – a people selected by God before the foundation of the world to belong to Him
 - 2. A Royal Priesthood – a set of people who belong to God to mirror to the nations the glory of God through their spiritual sacrifices
 - 3. A Holy Nation – a people set apart for the Lord
 - 4. A People for God's Own Possession – a people belonging to God out of all the world
 - 5. So that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light – to declare the glorious attributes of God and to

demonstrate the character of God who has saved them from sin unto a new and right relationship with God to the world of unbelievers

6. You are now the people of God who have received mercy – you did not deserve to be a people of God's possession, but you deserved damnation. He did not give you what you deserve but gave you what you did not deserve, which is to be a people of God's possession.

Key Points to Consider

1. New birth in Jesus Christ should lead to a desire to feed on the enduring Word of God.
2. Feeding on the Word of God should lead to a maturing love for God and maturing love for others, leading to maturation into the perfect image of Jesus Christ.
3. You have been chosen and belong to God to declare and demonstrate His character.