



Joy Trumps.

...just the **WORD** to change your **WORLD** – John 1:1.

Baby Ben is crying; he is crying non-stop. He refuses to be pacified. His mum has tried singing to him and dancing with him. Ben has been offered toys and sweets, even kisses and cuddles, all to no avail. Baby Ben only cried louder and louder. “What does he really want?” asked a passer-by who had been watching very closely. Ben’s mother smiled and replied “he wants milk but “Woman,” the passer-by interrupted sharply, “you cannot pacify this baby until you give him milk; stop trying other tricks!”

Today’s topic is “**CRAVING FOR MILK.**” Baby Ben, mentioned above, gives a picture of the comparison Peter was trying to make in **1Pet 2:2**: “*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.*” Peter’s admonition is that we desire spiritual milk (the word of God), just as a child would milk. Baby Ben was not ready to accept anything in exchange for the real milk he wanted. Imagine a child refusing to listen to music, not moved by dancing, refused to settle for toys and sweets, even kisses and cuddles could not buy him over. All he wanted was milk and milk he must get! Lysa Terkeurst, New York Times best-selling author, explains one good reason why God made us capable of craving. “*God made us capable of craving so we’d have an unquenchable desire for more of Him, and Him alone. Nothing changes until we make the choice to redirect our misguided cravings to the only one capable of satisfying them.*”

According to the dictionary, craving is an intense desire for something. God’s admonition therefore, is that we have intense desire for His word. By His word alone can we grow in our salvation. It is important to note that when we give our lives to Christ, we are given a new birth; born into salvation (**1Pet.1:3**). When we dwell in, abide by, delight in and crave for the word of God, we grow in our salvation (**1Pet. 2:2**). God pronounces blessings on the man that takes delight in His word “*blessed is the man.....but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night....*” (**Psalm 1:1-3**). John R.W Stott has this to say “*We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behaviour.*” A very strong appetite for God’s word energises the acceleration of our spiritual growth.

Do not try to satisfy your inner child-like craving with the things of this world; “*For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does comes not from the Father but from the world.*” (**1John 2:16**). Ben’s mum, in the conversation above, tries to satisfy Ben’s cravings with other stuff, just as we try to seek satisfaction in other things other than desiring the sincere milk of the word of God. These are all tricks and do not grant any lasting satisfaction. What we need to do, like Ben, is to refuse to settle for what the flesh has to offer but yield to our inner craving for the sincere milk of truth which daily sanctify us “*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*” The sincere milk of the word, and not the rationalisation of the word of man, is the nourishment our spiritual man needs for growth. According to Charles Spurgeon, “*If we cannot all feel alike, we can all feed alike on the Bread of Life.*” Forgetting our individual differences, overcoming our weaknesses and craving more for His word ensures growth and deeper yearning for God.

Desiring the sincere milk of the word of God (as a child craves for milk), is an admonition for all, no matter how old you consider yourself to be as a Christian. It is as strong an admonition to new converts as it is for maturing Christians. Remember, there is no “grown up” in the knowledge of God...we are all growing. As a matter of fact, the childlike spirit can never be over emphasised if we mean business about going to heaven “*...I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven....*” (**Matt 18:2-4**). Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible commentary makes it interestingly clear that “milk” mentioned in **1Pet2:2** is not elementary truth in contrast to more advanced Christian truth as mentioned in **1Corinth.3:2** and **Heb.5:12**. Instead, it is in contrast to all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander as mentioned in **1Pet2:1**. Therefore, we



are all called upon to embrace the simplicity of the word of God in absolute child-like simplicity and thereby grow in our salvation.

Today, the temptation to crave for anything other than the sincere milk of the word of God is stronger than ever before. There is a call for us to check how we crave and for what we crave. To perform this check, the starting point is still the word of God. *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* (Heb.4:12). May the sincere milk of God’s word bring about fresh nourishment for our hearts and grant us new strength to journey on. The more we CRAVE and DRINK of this milk, the THIRSTIER we shall be for more!

NOTE: All scriptures quoted or implied are taken from the NIV Bible.