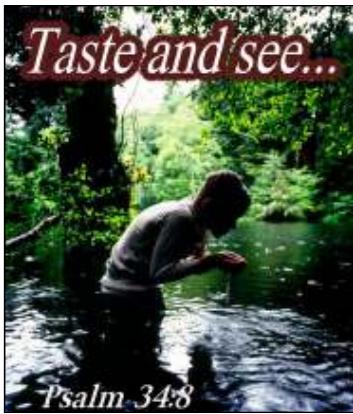


The Word of Hope 1 Peter 1:22-2:3



The Power of God's Word

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. *Isa 55:10-11*

A. Hope of Salvation: The Word 1 Peter 1:22-25

1. The truth The truth here is the revelation of God in His Word
2. Obedience to the truth Is receiving salvation on the basis of God's Word John 1:9
3. Pure souls Our souls are purified through the work of the Spirit of God in salvation
4. Love There are three aspects of love that result from salvation...
 - Sincere love** (of believers)
 - Fervent love** (for each other)
 - Love from a pure heart**
5. Eternal Word and eternal life 1 Peter 1:23-24
 - The Word is incorruptible** It will not decay or wear out like the things of this world which are temporary.
 - The spoken Word** The gospel is to be 'preached' — it is to be heard and received in the heart.

B. Hope for Life: Growing in the Word 1 Peter 2:1-2

The Word of God will cause at least two things in our lives:

1. Give up something Salvation results in our giving up malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and speaking evil.
2. Take up something Salvation also results in 'new desires' to replace the ones that we are giving up. The foremost NEW desire is for the Word of God.

C. Hope for Change: Taste and See 1 Peter 2:3

Have you tasted the Lord's grace through His Word? God will never force you to 'taste' — this is something you willingly do.

Here's how this works...

1. Make a decision Rom 12:1-2 Here Paul is saying, "Let it happen" be changed by taking in the Word and the Spirit of God. Conformity is something that happens to us outwardly—transformation happens inwardly (metamorphosis — like a caterpillar changing to a butterfly).
2. The Spirit's work 2 Cor 3:18 As we take in the Word of God for renewing our minds—the Holy Spirit does the work of transforming us into the image of Christ.
3. As He was—so are we Matt 17:2; Mark 9:2 The transfiguration foreshadows or own transformation.

1 Peter 1:22–2:3 (NKJV)

:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God** which lives and abides forever,

:24 because "ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY,

:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed [Gk *metamorphosis*] by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed [Gk *metamorphosis*] into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Mark 9:2 (NKJV)

:2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured [Gk *metamorphosis*] before them.