

**Daily Devotions**  
**CHURCH TALK**  
**“I’m not being fed”**  
**July 18, 2021**

**In order to be fed spiritually, we must be**

1. Moving beyond religion to relationship
2. Moving beyond admirer to follower
3. Moving beyond safe to vulnerable

**Heart Preparation:**

- Begin your time with praise. Praise gets our hearts and minds focused on God and the things above.
- Confess any sin that might hinder God’s Word and God’s Spirit from working in your heart.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to transform your life through the Word of God.

**Note: The NIV version was used to write the questions.**

**Day 1 - Desire God’s Word**

**Read 1 Peter 2:1-5**

Verse 1 starts with the word “Therefore” referring back to what was written in Chapter 1.

We are to love one another because we have been born again by the living and enduring Word of God. Therefore, we must do something.

What 5 things does Peter say we must rid ourselves of in verse 1? Look up each of those words and write out a simple meaning

Malice

Deceit

Hypocrisy

Envy

Slander

Once we rid ourselves of those things, what are we to do (2)?

How are we to long for the Word (keyword: like) (2)?

How does a baby long for milk? How often?

For what purpose (keyword:so that) are we to crave for the Word (2) ?

What is a prerequisite to growth (3)?

In order to grow, you must first know Jesus. If you haven't tasted His goodness, what He did for you on the cross, start by giving your life to Jesus.

Why is it important to rid your heart and mind of those ungodly thoughts and actions before you pursue God's word? How might they hinder the receptivity of your heart?

What things have you been entertaining in your heart (complaints, comparisons, anger, ill-will...) rather than craving for the Word?

Spend some time confessing and ridding yourself of them.

What will you do to seek after the Word this week like a newborn baby craves for milk?

**Prayer:** Father, thank you that Your Word is living and enduring. Forgive me for allowing my heart to be filled with sinful thoughts and actions. Help me to clean out my heart so that I can pursue Your Word from a pure heart. I want to grow in my relationship with You. Amen

## **Day 2 - Who causes your growth?**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

What did Paul accuse the Corinthians of being (1)?

Why (keyword: for) couldn't he give them solid food (2)?

Why (keyword: for) were they still not able to eat solid food (3)?

Paul accused the Corinthian believers of being worldly. In what ways were they worldly (3-4)?

The Corinthians had taken their eyes off of God and were bragging and competing over whose disciple they were.

When have you seen people follow leaders for the wrong reasons?

How did Paul describe Apollos & Paul (5)? What were they carrying out (5)?

Who makes us grow (6)?

Take a moment and think about who has been instrumental in your spiritual growth.

What does Paul say about them (7)?

What does Paul say about those who plant and those who water (8-9)?

God puts servants in our lives to help us grow but we must remember that it is not them but God who causes the growth.

What do you think are the most important qualities for you to look for in someone who can lead you spiritually?

Ask God to examine your heart. Who are you following and why?

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for being the source of my growth. Examine my heart. Show me how I might be worldly, not realizing that I need milk and not solid food, following people and not You. Thank you for the people you have put in my life to help me grow. Amen.

### **Day 3 - Press on to know Jesus**

#### **Read Philippians 3:7-14**

Paul could boast because of what he attained under Judaism (Phil 3:4-6).

What was more important to Paul than everything he attained under Judaism (8)?

How did Paul want to gain (8-9)?

What did Paul want to know (10)?

How do verses 12-14 describe how Paul pursued knowing Jesus?

What would it look like for you to “press on” to know Jesus and what He has ahead for you?

What is one thing you can do today to know Jesus better?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I want to know You. I confess that there are still many things that I make more important than feeding myself from the Word. I want to know You like Paul knew You. Help me to press on to know You fully. Amen.

### **Day 4 - Jesus’ goal for His church**

#### **Read Ephesians 4:11-16**

What type of leaders did Jesus give the church (11)?

What did He want the leaders to do (12)?

For what purpose (keyword: so that) did He give them to the church (12)?

What does Jesus want the body of Christ to become (13)?

What does an immature church look like (14)?

Why is an immature church so easily tossed?

What does Jesus want His church to become (15)?

What is necessary to accomplish this (16)?

Every believer is to be equipped to carry out God's ministry. Do you tend to be more a spectator or a participator? Why?

Equipping entails both growing in the Word so you are not easily swayed and being equipped to serve in God's Church.

What step can you take this week to both grow and discover the part Jesus has for You in His Church?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you that You have given gifted people to the church to equip me for ministry. Help me to get past my fears and excuses and help me to make being equipped both in the Word and in serving a priority. Amen.

## **Day 5 - Importance of a receptive heart**

### **Read Luke 8:11-15**

In this parable, Jesus gives us four types of soil that represent four responses people have to the Word of God.

What does the seed represent (11)?

What happened to the seed that fell along the path (12)? Why?

How did the seed that fell on the rocky ground initially respond to the Word (13)? What happened when testing came along? Why?

How do you think you put roots down in your faith so that you don't fall away?

What happened to the seed that was sown among the thorns (14)?

How might worries be keeping you from maturing?

How might the pursuit of riches be keeping you from maturing?

How might the pleasures of this life be keeping you from maturing?

What is the condition of the heart of the seed that falls on good soil (15)?

What does this person do with the Word of God (15)?

What do they produce with it (15)?

Evaluate the condition of your heart. What type of soil are you?

What do you need to do to improve the soil of your heart?

Come to Christ?

Put down roots?

Address worries, riches and pleasures?

Hear and retain the Word and bear fruit?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for this parable. Help me to spend time in Your Word so that I can put roots down in my faith. Convict me when worries, riches or pleasures crowd out my faith. I want to be one who hears and retains Your Word and bears fruit. Amen.