Acquiring, Activating and Cultivating an Intense Desire for The Word

**Cultivate** – To promote the growth, development and improvement of; to devote time and thought to assist the growth of; to improve or develop by careful attention, training and study.

**Develop** – To bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state; to cause to grow and become more mature. Syn. grow, evolve, mature, expand, enlarge, advance, progress, prosper, succeed

**FOUNDATION TEXT**

**1 Peter 2:1-3**

**1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,**

**2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,**

**3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.**

**Acts 20:28**

**28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**

**Heb 13:17-18**

**17 Obey** *PEItho* – present, imperative - to approve of, to endorse, to consent to authority, to rely on, to depend on, to trust in, to have confidence with inward certainty **your leaders and submit** present, imperative - to yield to authority and admonition warning, reprimand rebuke **to them** because we represent God**, for they are keeping watch** Gk. Present, active, indicative -to be sleepless, to keep awake for the purpose of watching', to be alert, to be on the lookout; to make an effort to learn of what might be a potential threat - present or future - **over your souls** the real you…love the Lord your God with all you soul…**, as those who will have to give an account…**to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Chief Shepherd…this is in regards to His sheep. **ACCOUNT** - a report of things done; to give an answer or an explanation as it regards to judgment…**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning** this is addressed to the people of God, the flock of God, the church and not to the leaders. In other words, it is the responsibility of the church to help their leaders rule with joy and satisfaction. One way of doing this is through willing submission to their authority. The joy of our leaders in the Lord should be a motivation for submission. We are not to submit begrudgingly or out of a feeling of compulsion, but willingly, so that our elders and pastors may experience joy in their work with us.**, for that would be of no advantage to you.** When we do not have a loving and obedient spirit, God is displeased, our leaders are grieved.

**1 Peter 5:4**

**4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

Attendance, leading to a lack of getting the word which in turn stunts spiritual growth!!!

**3 John 3-4**

**3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth.**

**4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.**

**ARE YOU STARVING, SPIRITUALLY???**

**Matthew‬**

4 “But he answered, “It is written, “‘**Man shall** not **live** by bread alone, but **by every word that comes from the mouth of God**.’””

35 “Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me **shall not hunger**, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

**Jeremiah 15:16**

**16** “**Your** **words** were found, and **I ate them**, and **your** **words** became to me a **joy and the delight** of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.”

1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may **grow up** into salvation—

**2 Peter‬**

18 “but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [Where is this knowledge found?]. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

**16** “**All Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

**17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

**John 17:17**

**17** Sanctify them in the truth; your **word is truth.**

LOVING THE WORD OF GOD

**REAL GENUINE CHRISTIANS ABSOLUTELY LOVE, DELIGHT IN AND TREASURE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Romans 7:22**

22 For I **delight** in the law of God, in my **inner being**/man…

**Job 23:12**

12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;

I have **treasured the words** of his mouth more than my portion of food.

**Psalms 1:2**

2 but his **delight** is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law he **meditates day and night**.

**Psalms 19:10**

10 **More to be desired** are they than **gold**,

even much **fine gold**; **sweeter** also than honey

and drippings of the honeycomb.

**Psalms 40:8**

8 I **delight** to do your will, O my God;

**your law** is within my heart.”

**Ps 119:48**

48 I will lift up my hands toward your **commandments, which I love**, and I will meditate on your statutes.

**Ps 119:97**

97 Oh **how I love your law**! It is my meditation all the day.

**Ps 119:127-128**

127 Therefore **I love your commandments** above gold, above fine gold.

128 Therefore **I consider all your precepts to be right**; I hate every false way.

**Ps 119:165-167**

165 Great peace have those who **love your law**; nothing can make them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I do your commandments.

167 My soul keeps your testimonies; **I love them exceedingly**.

The first step in cultivating an intense desire for the word is to **GET THE WORD** – habitually – constantly, consistently and continually, as a way of life.

**GETTING THE WORD MEANS RECEIVING** accept, consent to, to agree with, to approve of, to endorse **THE WORD** as being the absolute truth above all else **– YOU CAN’T GET W/O RECEIVING.**

**IF YOU GET THE WORD AND THERE IS NO INTENT TO LEARN FROM IT AND NO INTENT TO OBEY IT – THEN YOU HAVEN’T GOTTEN THE WORD.**

**WAYS OF GETTING THE WORD** – READING, STUDYING, MEDITATING AND LISTENING TO THE WORD ON A CONTINUAL BASIS **WITH THE INTENT TO LEARN FROM THE WORD OF GOD AND TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD….MEANING ITS TRUTHS BECOMES YOUR TRUTHS…ITS TRUTH RENOVATES AND RENEWS YOUR MIND…ITS TRUTH COMPLETELY SHAPES YOUR WORLDVIEW….YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS, PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY IS DOMINATED BY THE TRUTH OF GODS WORD**

***WHENEVER YOU ARE RECEIVING THE WORD, THE RECEPTION OF THAT WORD IS TO ALWAYS BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE INTENT TO UNDERSTAND IT, TO ACCEPT IT AS THE ONLY TRUTH AND OBEY IT***

## **Prov 4:5-7**

## **5 Get** acquire, to possess, to make your own **GODLY wisdom [***chokmah* - knowledge/information/facts AND the ability to make the right choices at the opportune time.

*….the quality or state of being wise; wisdom is having knowledge of what is true and right coupled with the ability to* ***make a just judgment or perform a just action.***

##  …..is the ability to judge correctly and to **follow the best course of action**, based on **knowledge** and **understanding]** **get understanding** [**insight** - an apprehending [a grasping with the mind] the true nature of a thing; to see underlying truth; **discernment** is the ability to distinguish between two; **comprehension** is to mentally grasp something's complete nature or meaning**, interpretation** clarify, explain, analyze. **Understanding** leads to **know how**…], **forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.**

## **6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.**

## **7 Wisdom is the principal** chief, first and foremost, preeminent, primary **thing; therefore get** acquire, to possess, to make your own **GODLY wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.**

**The world says, money is the principal thing; therefore get money: and with all your getting get more.**

**James 3:15-17**

15 This **wisdom** is **NOT THAT which comes down from above**, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

**Prov 23:23**

**23 Buy truth, and do not sell it,**

**Get wisdom and instruction and understanding**

**Ps 119:103-105**

**103 How sweet are Your words to my taste!**

**Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**104 From Your precepts I get understanding;**

**Therefore I hate every false way**

**Ps 119:71-72**

**71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,**

**That I may learn Your statutes.**

## **Matt 11:28-30**

## 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

## 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

## 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE TO RECEIVE THE WORD WITH THE INTENT TO UNDERSTAND AND OBEY IT!**

**Deuteronomy 5:1**

**1 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.**

**Deut 6:1-3**

**1 "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it,**

**2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.**

**Matt 7:21-27**

**21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.**

**22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'**

**23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'**

**24 "Therefore everyone who *hears* these words of Mine and *does* them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

**25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.**

**26 And everyone who *hears these words* of mine and *does not do them* will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.**

**27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”**

**Luke 8:19-21**

**19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd.**

**20 And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.”**

**21 But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who *hear the word of God and do it*.”**

**Philippians 4:9**

**9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things** do these things, habitually practice these things, model your way of living after these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.**

**Hebrews 5:12-14**

**12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,**

**13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.**

**14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by *constant practice* to distinguish good from evil.**

**James 1:22**

**22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.**

KING SAUL

**1 Sam 15:1-3;13-27**

**1 And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord.**

**2 Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.**

**3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction ALL that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”**

**SKIP TO VERSE 13**

**13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”**

**14 And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”**

**15 Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.”**

**16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”**

**17 And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.**

**18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’**

**19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”**

**20 And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.**

**21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”**

**22 And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.**

**23 For rebellion** which is what disobedience is **is as the sin of divination** soothsaying, fortunetelling, palm reading, etc.**, and presumption** worshipping idols and small images or cult objects used as deities **is as iniquity** heathenism **and idolatry** the worship of idols and demoniacal powers**.**

DISOBEDIENCE IS REBELLION AND REBELLION IS OPEN OPPOSITION TO GOD.!

ALL CONSCIOUS DISOBEDIENCE IS ACTUALLY IDOLATRY, BECAUSE IT MAKES SELF-WILL, THE HUMAN “I”, INTO A GOD.

SO THAT ALL MANIFEST OPPOSITION TO THE WORD AND COMMANDMENT OF GOD IS, LIKE IDOLATRY, A REJECTION OF THE TRUE GOD.

**Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”**

**24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed THEIR voice.**

**25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord.”**

**26 And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”**

**27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.**

**28 And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.**

SO WE MUST HAVE THE INTENT TO UNDERSTAND AND OBEY THE WORD IN OUR GETTING THE WORD

NOW, I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT WE ARE TO…

***GET THE WORD AS A WAY OF LIFE – WHAT DO I MEAN BY “WAY OF LIFE”?***

## way of life [**lifestyle**]– behavior [**actions, deeds, conduct**], practice [**things you do, live out, perform, follow and observe ON A REGULAR BASIS**], routine [**it’s habitual, it’s customary, it’s standard, it’s the norm**] everyday life, manner of living;

## BY WAY OF DEFINITION, a lifestyle is a way of life or style of living that reflects the habits and attitudes of a person or group. [MINDSET - **the mind of** Christ]

**WHY MAKE A LIFESTYLE OUT OF GETTING THE WORD**

**SO THAT GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH YOU**

**John 15:7-8**

**7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

**8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

**Matthew 5:16**

**16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

**19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,**

**20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

**1 Peter 2:12**

**12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

**1 Peter 4:11**

**11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

**Col 3:17**

**17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**1 Cor 10:31**

**31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

**WHY GET THE WORD AS A WAY OF LIFE???...SO THAT WE WON’T SIN AGAINST HIM/THEE**

**Ps 119:11**

**11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,**

**That I may not sin against You.**

**Ps 119:9**

**9 How can a young man keep his way pure?**

**By keeping it according to Your word.**

**Ps 1:1-2**

**1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,**

**Nor stand in the path of sinners,**

**Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!**

*WHY IS HE ABLE TO DO VERSE 1-* **Because of verse 2…**

**2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,**

**And in His law he meditates day and night.**

**Ps 119:101-102**

**101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way,**

**That I may keep Your word.**

**102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances,**

**For You Yourself have taught me.**

*THE WORD WILL HELP YOU TO IDENTIFY AND HATE SIN*

**103 How sweet are Your words to my taste!**

**Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**104 From Your precepts I get understanding;**

**Therefore I hate every false way.**

**SO, WHY GET THE WORD AS A WAY OF LIFE**

* **SO THAT GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH YOU**
* **WON’T SIN AGAINST HIM/THEE**
* *THE WORD WILL HELP YOU TO* ***HATE SIN***

**FOUNDATION TEXT**

**1 Peter 2:1-10**

**1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,**

**2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,**

**3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.**

**VERSE 1**

**1 Peter 2:1**

1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

“***THEREFORE OR IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT….***” REFERS BACK TO **CHAPTER ONE**

**1 Peter 1:22-25**

THE WORD PRODUCED THE NEW BIRTH….AND IS THE SOURCE OF OUR SALVATION

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth [THE WORD] purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

23 for you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but **imperishable**, that is, through the living and enduring **word of God.**

**2 Timothy 3:15**

15 and that from childhood you have known the **sacred writings** which are able to give you the wisdom that **leads to salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**James 1:18**

18 In the exercise of His will He **brought us forth** by **the word of truth**, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

NOT ONLY DID THIS WORD SAVE YOU, BUT THIS WORD IS ETERNAL….IT ENDURES FOREVER

*VERSE 23 AGAIN*

23 for you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but **imperishable** [not subject to decay in essence/nature or in continuance; does not deteriorate, degenerate or decline], that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For,

"ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,

AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.

THE GRASS WITHERS,

AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

25 BUT **THE WORD OF THE LORD** **ENDURES FOREVER**." Isaiah 40:8 …**And this is the word which was preached to you.**

BACK TO **1 PETER 2:1**

**1 Peter 2:1**

Verse 1

**1** **Therefore** In view of the fact that **new life/divine life** has been imparted to the believer by the eternal word of God**, putting aside *apotithemi* -** laying aside, to rid oneself of all those parts of the old life, to put away, to separate oneself from the ugly, old hindrances hanging on from our residual fallenness; to cease/to stop doing what one is accustomed to doing ONCE FOR ALL]

**Eph 4:21-25**

21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

22 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, **having put away** falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Colossians 3:5-8**

5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

7 In these you too **once walked**, when you were living in them.

8 But now you must **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

**Hebrews 12:1**

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside** every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus [turn away from looking at all that distracts and fix your gaze on Jesus; turn your mind, your focus and your attention on/towards Jesus – **Col 3:1-2**], the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**James 1:21**

21 Therefore **put away** all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the **implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

*BACK TO COMMENTARY OF 1 PETER 1:2*

The believer is commanded to separate himself from sin….to turn around and walk away from **all malice** [general term for any and all forms of wickedness, evil, etc.

HERE, the Peter’s list concentrates on sinful, evil, wicked practices which are incompatible with **brotherly love** mentioned in **1 Peter 1:22**] **and all deceit/guile** [fraud, falsehood, dishonesty, treachery, betrayal, disloyalty] **and hypocrisy** [***hupokriseis*** - which means literally "to judge under," as a person giving off his judgment from behind a screen or mask. The true identity of the person is covered up. It refers to acts of impersonation or deception.

It was used of an actor on the Greek stage and refers to a person who assumes the mannerisms, speech, and character of someone else, thus hiding their true identity. Believers, on the other hand, should be open and above-board. We should be ourselves. Meaning, we are to be before others who we are before God.] **and envy** a state of ill will toward someone because of some real or presumed advantage experienced by them; "envy," is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others **and all slander** [to speak evil of, backbiting, to lie against, to defame]**,**

ONE COMMENTATOR NOTED:

SIN IN THE LIFE DESTROYS THE APPETITE FOR THE WORD.

THE CHRISTIAN WHO TRIES TO FIND SATISFACTION IN THE HUSKS OF THE WORLD, HAS NO APPETITE LEFT FOR THE THINGS OF GOD.

HIS HEART IS FILLED WITH THE FORMER AND HAS NO ROOM FOR THE LATTER.

A HEALTHY INFANT IS A HUNGRY INFANT.

A SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY CHRISTIAN IS A HUNGRY CHRISTIAN.

THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF WHY SO MANY CHILDREN OF GOD HAVE SO LITTLE LOVE FOR THE WORD.

Verse 2

**2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,**

**2 Like newborn** [just born, newly born, recently born] **infants** suckling, nursing infants; a babe at the breast. By the way, newborn babies crave milk and only milk. They desire nothing else!!!!**, long for** By the way, the Holy Spirit through Peter doesn’t command us to **read** the Word here.  He commanded us to do that in **1 Timothy 4:13**.

We are also commanded to **study** the Word - **2 Timothy 2:15**.

We are commanded to **meditate** the Word – **Phil 4:18**.

We are commanded to **teach** the Word, as he did in **1 Timothy 4:11**

We are commanded to to **preach** it, as he did in **2 Timothy 4:2**

We are commanded to **search** the Word – **John 5:39**; Acts 17:11

We are commanded to to **wield** the Word as the sword - **Ephesians 6:17**

We are commanded to **hide** the Word - [**Psalm 119:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Ps%20119.11)

AT THE FOUNDATION OF ALL OF THAT IS THE NECESSITY TO **LONG** FOR IT.

**LET’S DEFINE** ***long for*** - an intense, jealous desire, *a profound need*, an *extreme hunger,* an ever-recurring passion, an insatiable longing; a craving that is all consuming; a kind of desire that is a solo, solitary desire.

In a nutshell, **desire/long** **for** - is an intense, profound, extreme, ever-recurring desire that is all-consuming [completely filling one’s mind and attention; obsessive, compulsive, fanatical, excessive]

DO WE HAVE ANYTHING EVEN REMOTELY LIKE THAT KIND OF CRAVING FOR THE WORD OF GOD?

DO WE GET TO THE PLACE WHERE WE DESIRE IT MORE THAN OUR NECESSARY FOOD?

IF WE HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN READING THE SCRIPTURE AND EATING, WOULD WE CHOOSE READING THE SCRIPTURES?

DO WE HAVE AN INTENSE LONGING THAT RISES OUT OF OUR HEARTS THE WAY THAT LONGING RISES OUT OF A BABY???

WHEN WE’RE NOT RECEIVING THE MILK OF THE WORD, WILL WE *CRY* OUT FOR IT LIKE A NEWBORN BABY CRYING OUT FOR THEIR MOTHER’S MILK?

SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY SAYING, I’M A LONG WAY FROM THAT.

I’M NOT OCD ON THE BIBLE.

I’M NOT OBSESSED.

HOW DO I GET OBSSESSED?

HOW DO I DEVELOP OCD TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD????

GO BACK TO **VERSE ONE**…GET RID OF SIN!!!!!

AS I SAID EARLIER, SIN SPOILS YOUR SPIRITUAL APPETITE.

SIN IS A BARRIER TO THE TASTE FOR HOLY TRUTH.

LET’S LOOK AT SOME SCRIPTURE CONCERNING **LONGING** FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**Neh 8:1-3**

1 And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel.

2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

3 And **he read from it** facing the square before the Water Gate **from early morning until midday**, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the **ears of all the people were attentive** to the Book of the Law.

**Psalms 42:1**

1 As a deer **pants** for flowing streams,

so **pants** my soul for you, O God.

**Ps 63:1**

1 O God, you are my God; **earnestly I seek** you; my soul **thirsts** for you; my flesh **faints** for you, as in a dry and weary land where **there is no water**.

**Ps 119:20**

20 My soul is **consumed with longing** for your rules **at all times**.

**verse 40**

40 Behold, I **long for** your precepts;

in your righteousness give me life!

**verse** **131**

131 I opened my mouth and **panted** [with eager desire], for I **longed for** Your commandments.

**Jer 15:16**

16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

BACK TO…..

**1 Peter 2:2**

**2 like newborn babies, long for** **the pure** It is guileless, unadulterated; nothing added to it. The Word of God has no ulterior motives. It is truthful, honest and straight-forward, complete, untouched, unmodified, unaltered and untainted **milk** the mother’s milk does two things. One it nourishes and two, it protects the child. Well, the word of God does the same thing. It nourishes and feeds the child of God and it protects it from danger seen and unseen. **of the word,** just as a newborn baby desires the pure milk of the mother’s breast, the children of God are to desire the pure milk of the word of God **that by it** the word **you may grow up into salvation—** the full and final completion of the sanctification aspect of their salvation

**Let’s go back to the phrase, “that by it** the word **you may** ***grow up…”***

**grow** is passive. Literal Greek, that it may grow you.

“It” being the word of God.

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE ONLY ENTITY THAT EXIST IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE THAT WILL **CAUSE US TO GROW** SPIRITUALLY

**Eph 4:15**

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up in every way** into him who is the head, into Christ,

**Col 1:10**

10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, **bearing fruit** in **every** good work and **increasing in the knowledge** of God.

**2 Thess 1:3**

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your **faith is growing** **abundantly**, and the **love of every one** of you for one another is **increasing**.

**2 Peter 3:18**

 18 But **grow in the grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

QUESTION: HOW DO THESE THINGS HAPPEN?

ANSWER: BY AND BECAUSE OF THE WORD AND THE WORD ALONE!

NO WONDER GOD SAID THREE TIMES IN HIS WORDS THAT we don’t live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might **make you know** that **man does not live by bread alone**, **but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

**Matthew 4:4**

4 But he answered, “It is written,

“‘**Man shall not live by bread alone,**

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of God**.’”

**Luke 4:4**

4 And Jesus answered him, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”**

NOW IT’S AMAZING……HOW WELL *WE* GET ALONG WITHOUT CRYING FOR THE WORD OF GOD.  IT’S AMAZING HOW MUCH JUNK FOOD *WE* CAN FEED ON - radio, television, movies, the Internet, computer games, books, periodicals, and even so-called Christian pulpits—all of which causes **spiritual malnourishment** and **dulls appetites** for **genuine spiritual food**

**REMEMBER, IT IS BY THE INTAKE OF THE TRUTH** that’s feeding on the word **THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT GROWS AND MATURES BELIEVERS – LOOK AT…**

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from one degree of glory to another**. For **this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit**.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture:

"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone,

AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

"THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,

THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

8 and,

"A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.