

31 December 2017

## Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt 1 Desire, receive and meditate on the word of God.

This is our first study from the scriptures on our topic the essential ingredients for growth of a Christian. In this teaching we will cover the essential ingredient of the word of God and the need to desire, receive and meditate on the word of God.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Desire the sincere milk of the word.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1Pet.2: 2).

Soon after delivery a baby takes a breath, often cries and soon after desires to be fed from its mother. "If any man be in Christ, he is new creature" (2Cro.5: 17), and as such is born of the Spirit of God (Jn.3: 5-8), and soon after their new birth they will require spiritual milk of the word for growth. Jesus said "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit" (Jn.6: 63), they are our food.

### 2. Receive the word of God with all readiness of mind.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17: 11).

The word "receive" in the New Testament is also translated "be partaker" which is similar to the 13th century meaning of "take to oneself". Hence when we receive the word of God we take it to ourselves, we are a partaker, which makes sense as the lost receives the gospel, and is born of the Spirit of God, and is then required to receive God's words which are essential for spiritual growth.

### 3. Mediate on the word of God.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth...thou shalt meditate therein day and night" (Josh.1: 8). See also – Ps.1: 2, 63: 6 & 119: 15, 48, 78, 148.

Although not in order – it would appear logical that believers would desire the sincere milk, receive the words and then mediate on them. The word "meditate" is also translated in the Old Testament "to study", and it should not surprise you that the scriptures also say "Study to shew thyself unto God, a workman" and that is exactly what a soldier in Christ is – a workman. Hence on our journey from babe to workman (soldier) an essential ingredient for spiritual growth is to meditate on the word of God.

### Applying the teaching to our life today.

Benjamin was a young Polynesian man that was handed a gospel tract by a preacher on the street. He told the preacher that he was Christian, although had only gone to church for a couple of weeks before going back into the world.

Question to think about.

Why would a man having "tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God" (Heb.6: 4 & 5) fall away two weeks later?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

1. Because he had believed in vain (1Cor.15: 2) and was a reprobate (2Cor.13: 5) – in other words he not believed in his heart and was not in the body of Christ, or
2. if he is a believer he has never been fed, nor desired the sincere milk of the word of God, or
3. the church he went to did not have a copy of the "scripture of truth" (Dan.10: 21), and so the teacher taught either false doctrine or from his experience.

It was clear from Benjamin that if he was a believer, as he confessed, then he was severely malnourished. Let us be mindful of our own journey and monitor our daily intake of food, i.e. the sincere milk of the word – an essential ingredient for Christian growth, lest we also become malnourished.