**THIRSTY FOR "MILK"**
**I Peter 2:1-3**

Once *"born again"* (1:23) by the word, God expects us to *"grow"* by the Word.

***"As newborn babes" =*** as recently-born nursing babies.
Babies have a natural desire for milk. They are born with a natural instinct to suck. They crave milk. They can't make it without their "bottle."

"begin desiring," to "start desiring."
Psalm 42:1-2 - *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God,*

Three ways to stimulate your appetite for the Word:

**I. Rid yourself of the sins that ruin your appetite for the Word (v. 1)**

"Sometimes children have no appetite because they have been eating the wrong things" (Wiersbe, p. 400).

Peter lists five villains that will rob your appetite for God's Word.

***"Laying aside" =*** to place away from oneself; to put off and discard; to strip off and throw away; to get rid of.

The old saying is true: "This Book [the Bible] will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this Book."

***"Malice" -*** evil, badness; a broad term for wickedness.
Bad feelings toward; Bad thinking; Bad actions
***"Guile" -*** deceitfulness; the word means to catch with bait.
Any form of seduction; any form of entrapment; any trickery or deceitful
God's people are to be people of truth, sincerity, fidelity.
***"Hypocrisies" =*** play acting to pretend you are someone you are not.
A hypocrite is someone who "wears a mask" with the intention of deceiving.
***"Envies" -*** this word describes one who holds a grudge against someone because they possess something that you yourself do not have.
***"Evil speakings" -*** slanderous speech; lit. to speak against or to speak down upon. To belittle; to degrade; to backbite; to devour someone with your words, to gossip

**II. Realize the wholesome goodness and growth that comes from the Word (v. 2)**

***"Sincere" =*** EX: In America, many milk containers and milk products have the word "real" printed in bold red letters to emphasize the pure, genuine, pasteurized,a nd homogenized nature of the milk in the container.

***"Sincere" -*** without guile, without deceit, without impurity.
The Word of God is pure, unadulterated, uncontaminated.

***"Milk" -*** the Bible is called "milk" because like milk it is a basic necessity to life. It nourishes our spiritual life, like milk nourishes our physical bodies.

***"That you may grow thereby."***

Christian maturity comes only to those who have a daily intake of the Word of God.

You see, you mature as your faith grows;

The word ***"grow"*** is passive, indicating that the growth is not self-induced.
much milk - much growth little milk - little growth no milk - no growth
Do you want to know why you feel "weak" spiritually? Why you have no power over your fleshly impulses? Why you struggle to do what is right? etc. The reason is because you have neglected your milk!

**III. Experience the good grace of God and your appetite will be stimulated for the Word (v. 3)**

The prerequisite to having a desire for God's Word is to taste of God's grace.
The more you taste of God's grace, the more you want to taste. The more you read, the more you want to read.

Psalm 34:8 - *"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him"*
If the Lord is good, His Word must also be good.