

As Free People: Long for Spiritual Food

Pastor Daniel introduced our 4-week series, "As Free People: How Christians Should Live in This World."

Strategy #1: Endure with Hope, a) looking **BACK** to the Resurrection of Christ; b) keeping our gaze **NOW** on our unfading inheritance reserved in heaven; c) stay focused on the **FUTURE** ahead BY FAITH that God's power will keep us until the final day (1 Peter 1:3-5)! Past, Present & Future...

*"[For it is He] Who **rescued** and saved us from such a perilous death, and **He will still** rescue and save us; **in** and **on Him we have set our hope** (our joyful and confident expectation) that **He will again deliver us** [from danger and destruction and draw us to Himself" (2 Corinthians 1:10 AMPC). Lesson learned: we can **endure with hope in God** concerning the past, present & future!*

Strategy #2: *Free People, who live in this world as Christians, MUST be nourished with a regular diet of healthy spiritual food. **OR** simply stated: **STAY NOURISHED MY FRIEND!***

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV, *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious"*

"ALL" the things to omit from our old life (anybody you know?):

1. Malice - a desire to harm someone
2. Deceit - leading people to believe in a non-truth
3. Hypocrisy - pretense of real beliefs; play acting
4. Envy - painful resentment of another's advantage joined with an unhealthy desire to possess the same advantage
5. Evil Speaking - need explanation

How can I BE FREE from these fleshly struggles?

#1: Don't forget the HUGE "THEREFORE" used in 2:1 is preceded by:

1 Peter 1:22-25 NKJV *"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, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abide forever, 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, But the word of the Lord endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."*

The "**THEREFORE**" [2:1] connects to 1 Peter 1:22-25

1. **OBEYING TRUTH** purifies our soul "you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit" (vs. 22a)

James 1:19b-22 NLT *"You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and **humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts**, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."*

2. **His purifying truths** will free us to love people **FROM A PURE HEART**. "...in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart" (vs. 22b). "Washing of water BY THE WORD" Eph. 5:26)
3. BECAUSE we have been **BORN AGAIN**: "...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abide forever...'the word of the Lord endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."

God's Word is incorruptible seed: His Word is the everlasting (eternal);
The Word of the Lord ENDURES FOREVER! HIS WORD IN YOU is
Indestructible, Eternal, and Durable!

#2: Like a newborn baby start with the milk!

1. The Word of God is a ***HUGE GROWTH AGENT***
2. Don't forget your heart is a Word factory: "the Sower Sows the Word" and that seeds grows day & night. BUT remember effectiveness depends on the condition of the heart at the time the seed is sown (Read Mark 4:14-32)
3. A Strong spirit is essential to endure in a hard time:
 - a. Prov. 18:14 *"The **spirit** of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a **broken spirit**?"*
 - b. Prov.25:28 *"Whoever has no rule over his own **spirit** Is like a city **broken** down, without walls."*
 - c. Prov. 17:22 *"A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones."*

#3: You start as a new-born BUT you can't stay a baby

forever:Hebrews 5:12-14 NIRV *"By this time you should be teachers. But in fact, you need someone to teach you all over again. You need even the simple truths of God's word. You need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk is still a baby. That person does not want to learn about living a godly life. Solid food is for those who are grown up. They have trained themselves to tell the difference between good and evil. That shows they have grown up"*

Action Steps:

1. Connect with a Life Group to study with others
2. Faithfully listen to the Word taught by church leaders
3. BE A DOER of what you hear, "you'll be blessed in all your deeds..."