

Day One • Monday, May 4

Like Newborn Infants

1 Peter 2:2–3 (ESV)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Peter could have chosen any image to describe the Christian life. He chose an infant. That is striking. He did not say, “like seasoned soldiers,” or “like skilled craftsmen,” or “like wise elders.” He said, like newborn infants. The Christian life, at its very center, looks like a baby in someone’s arms.

An infant cannot work on a skill set. An infant cannot build a résumé. An infant cannot save for retirement or fix the leaky faucet or even hold up its own head. An infant has exactly one thing it can do well: cry out for the one who feeds it. And, mercifully, that is enough. The whole of the infant’s life rests on the kindness of someone else.

We do not naturally think of ourselves this way. We are taught from a young age to stand on our own two feet, and there is real wisdom in that. But somewhere along the way the message slips from “learn to work hard” into “never let anyone see that you need help.” We start to think the goal of the Christian life is to grow out of needing God so urgently — that maturity means becoming less dependent. Peter says the opposite. Maturity in Christ means becoming more honest about the dependence that has been true of you from the moment you drew your first breath.

There is a beautiful transparency in a baby’s cry. The baby is not embarrassed. The baby does not say, “I really shouldn’t ask for that.” The baby simply names the need. And the heavenly Father, who knit you together and who knows exactly what you cannot give yourself, is not embarrassed by your need either. He invites it. He is the one who gave you that need so that you would come to Him and be fed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where in your life do you find it hardest to admit that you need help — from God or from anyone else?
2. What does it tell you about God that He chose “newborn infant” — not “strong warrior” — as a picture of the Christian?
3. How might your prayers change this week if you prayed with the honesty of an infant instead of the politeness of an adult?

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You made me, and I cannot keep myself. Teach me the holy honesty of a child who cries out without shame. Strip away the pride that pretends I do not need You, and feed me from Your own hand. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Family Action Item

Tonight, before bed, gather as a family and have each person finish this sentence out loud: “One thing I cannot do for myself today is ____.” It can be small or large, physical or spiritual. Then pray together, thanking God that He is the One who feeds us in every need. If there are little ones in the house, hold them while you pray — let the picture sink in.