

**1 Peter 2** <sup>2</sup> Like new-born babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

### John 5

<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: ...

<sup>36</sup> “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, <sup>38</sup> nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You study<sup>l</sup> <sup>1</sup> the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

How do we grow as Christians? Or as Peter puts it how do we *grow up in our salvation* ?

1. A simple command, 2. He reminds us of who we are in Christ.

**The simple command** Our only hope is to *crave pure spiritual milk* – long for and gulp down God’s word because that comes from the imperishable eternal nature of the Holy Spirit and that will not only sustain but nurture our new spiritual life in Christ. That is what will enable our souls to grow in stature and strength.

Not just studying the word of God, the scribes and the pharisees were brilliant at that but coming to Christ: *John 5: <sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Martin Luther: "The Bible is the cradle wherein the Christ child is laid." As we come to the manger to see the new-born Christ, so we come to the Bible to meet our living Lord.*

So having told his readers to *crave the spiritual milk of God’s word*, Peter tells them to you come to [Jesus], the living Stone. Whenever we read the Bible it shouldn’t be just to study it but through it to seek an encounter with Jesus who is the *Living Word*.

**Secondly, he reminds them of who they are in Christ.**

and what an amazing identity it is.

He has just called Jesus *the living Stone— chosen by God and precious to him*

And then he says you too are like Christ: *You* are living stones. And like Christ you are chosen and precious.

Peter begins his letter by telling these young Christians that they have been chosen by God, and he has already implied that we are precious, made God’s children, given an imperishable inheritance, showered with grace and *bought with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

Christ is the cornerstone, but each one of you is a living stone, a vital part of God’s building.