

# 1 PETER 1:22-2:3 “THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT”

**22** 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,

## **Psalm 119:9-13**

**9** How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

**10** With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

**11** **Your word I have hidden in my heart,** That I might not sin against You.

**12** Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

**13** With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.

- **“through the Spirit” – there is no other possible way of obeying the Word!**

- Joy of obedience
- Joy of a clear conscience
- Joy of sincere love

**Romans 8:13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

## **2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

**4** And we have such trust through Christ toward God.

**5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,

**6** who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, **not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

- **What does the Spirit of God want to do with you?**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4**

**3** **For this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

**4** that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

- **Three-fold work of Sanctification in every believer’s life:**

- Initial
  - **Sealing of the Holy Spirit at Re-birth**
- Progressive
  - **Daily sanctification in God’s Word**
- Final
  - **Once we are with Jesus**

**23** having been born again, **not of corruptible seed but incorruptible**, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

**24** 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,

**25 But the word of the LORD endures forever.”**

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

**Ephesians 1:13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard **the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**,

- **Many have come to understand that God’s Word has eternal power:**

**Isaiah 40:6-8**

**6** The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?”

“All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field.

**7** The grass withers, the flower fades,

Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass.

**8** The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever.”**

**Isaiah 55:11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, **And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

**Deuteronomy 32:2-4**

**2** Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

**3** For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.

**4** He *is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect; For all His ways *are* justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright *is* He.

**Ezekiel 12:25** For I *am* the LORD. **I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass;** it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it,” says the Lord GOD.’ ”

**Isaiah 45:22-23**

**22** “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.

**23** I have sworn by Myself; **The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return,** That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

**2:1** Therefore, laying aside all **malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,**

**2:2** as newborn babes, **desire** the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, **2:3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

- The Greek words suggest the voracious, hungry impatience of a baby at its mealtime. <sup>1</sup>
- Peter then listed **five sins of attitude and speech**, which if harbored would drive wedges between believers.
  - **Malice** (*kakian*) is wicked ill-will;
  - **deceit** (*dolon*) is deliberate dishonesty; (to catch with bait)
  - **hypocrisy** (*hypokriseis*), pretended piety and love;
  - **envy** (*phthonous*), resentful discontent; and
  - **slander** (*katalalias*), backbiting lies.
    - None of these should have any place in those who are born again. Rather, in obedience to the Word, believers are to make decisive breaks with the past. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible commentary : New Testament* (1 Pe 2:2). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>2</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.