

## **Born again: Drink and share the spiritual milk, to the glory of God (I Peter 1:23 - 2:10)**

### **Prayer**

O God, You chose us and caused us to be born again. You preserve our heritage and You also preserve us for that heritage. You stand with us in our weaknesses and thereby strengthen our faith in this grace. For that we give You all the glory!

Yesterday, you called us to a holy life. It was based on what our minds could see of Your sovereign great power, that overflows in hope in our hearts and then leads to an obedient life that overflows into love.

We are still weak, and we need help, in the battle to live more and more like Your Son every day. Feed us again today with spiritual milk. Yes Lord, let Your Word help us grow in this. Amen

### **Introduction**

On day one we saw:

We are chosen, bought, sanctified exiles  
which praises God the Father, for His mercy and power  
and rejoice with a God-worshiping joy, even in trials

That's why we got the commands in day 2:

Let your mind be set on the good news of the gospel,  
so that you can set your hope fully on the grace, with your heart,  
which overflows to your body, so that you can live a life of obedience,  
in faith and love,  
to glorify God.

### **Scripture**

#### ***1. Born again through the living, eternal Word of God***

23 since you have been *born again*,  
not of perishable seed  
*but* of imperishable,  
through the  
living and abiding

***word of God;***

*24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.*

*The grass withers, and the flower falls,*

*25 but the **word of the Lord** remains forever."*

*And this word **is the good news** that was preached to you. (I Peter 1:23-25, ESV)*

Peter refers back to verse 3 where he first mentioned being born again:

*According to **his great mercy**,  
he has *caused us to be born again**

to a *living hope*  
through the *resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*,

When we follow the indentation from the left, we read:

You have been *born again...through the... word of God... the good news*

Here Peter explains that the Word of God caused us to be born again. He also specifies that he refers to the good news (the gospel). The message about Jesus Christ. In the same way we heard the gospel message about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are born again.

Our rebirth is not from *perishable seeds*, but from *the Word* that remains and is living and active. If we are born again from seed that will remain forever, we will also live forever. We are not like people who have not been born from *imperishable seeds*. They are born from *perishable seeds* and they are like the grass and flowers that wither and dies.

## **2. Grow in holiness through pure spiritual milk (Word)**

23You have been *born again...through the... word of God...25 the good news*

1So *put away all malice*

*and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.*

2 Like new born infants,

*long for*

the *pure spiritual milk*,

**that** by it you may *grow up into salvation*—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the *Lord is good. (I Peter 2:1-3)*

Remember that the Bible was divided into chapters later on. Chapter 2 continues, without interruption, after chapter one. So we should read

23You have been *born again...through the... word of God...25 the good news*

1So *put away all malice... long for the pure spiritual milk*,

3 if indeed you have tasted that the *Lord is good. (I Peter 2:1-3)*

Just like babies long for milk, in the same way we need to long for pure spiritual milk: for the Word of God. And what we taste in God's Word is that the Lord is good!

The **that** then gives us the reason: We cannot get stuck at being born again, we need to grow. Grow in holiness through drinking pure spiritual milk. The more we taste of God's goodness, the taste of *bad things*, corruption and jealousy becomes bitter. *Like the psalmist says: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Ps 119:103)*

## **3. Become a living stone in the spiritual house through coming to the Corner Stone.**

4 As you come *to him, a living stone*

*rejected by men*

**but in the sight of God chosen and precious,**

5 you yourselves like *living stones* are being built up

*as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,*

*to offer spiritual sacrifices*

*acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

*6 For it stands in Scripture:... (I Peter 2:4-6, ESV)*

It seems unexpected at first glance. Peter discussed the impact of the Word on us from chapter 1 verse 23 and all of a sudden, he speaks about a stone. But in verse 6 he returns to the Word and quotes quite a few scriptures that he tasted and wants to share with us to show us the stone is a living stone, a corner stone, Jesus Christ. Let us first look at it, and then return to verses 4 and 5:

*6 For it stands in Scripture:*

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” (Rom 9:33, 10:11)*

*7 So the honor is for you who believe,  
but for those who do not believe,*

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” (Ps118:22)*

*8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” (Isaiah 8:14)*

*They stumble because they disobey the word,  
as they were destined to do. (I Peter 2:6-8, ESV)*

Peter begins with a quote from Romans that shows that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone. The one who is precious to God and the one who was chosen to do His redemptive work. If we see Jesus Christ as precious and believe in Him, we will not be ashamed. All of God's promises we've seen so far will come true.

Then he quotes parts all over the Bible that have already prophesied about the Stone. We are not going to dwell on this rich passage today. We can make one whole video about this living Stone! Feel free to read those verses. In the bigger picture of the chapter, Peter wants to show you that if you discover Jesus Christ in the Word and that one of two things happens. Either you fall over that stone or He is precious to you.

In both cases it originates in God. Those who build are born again (1:23) those who fall were destined for it (2:8).

But let us, as rejected exiles, return to verse 4 with the knowledge that he speaks of Jesus Christ. The consolation is He was also a rejected stone, but honoured by God. He is precious to Him. Verse 7 also showed us now, that Jesus Christ should be precious to us.

When we are born again and filled with the spiritual milk, we are given the command:

*4 As you come to him, a living stone ... 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up*

So, he is continuing the discussion of the spiritual growth. Where should we build up to, where should we grow to?

*as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,*

We have already seen in chapter 1 verse 2 that we are set apart by the Spirit to be holy. So, when we drink the spiritual milk and so come to Jesus Christ, the living stone, the Spirit fills us and makes us living stones.

What, then, should the spiritual house do?

*to offer spiritual sacrifices*

In the spiritual house our holy life now has value: We perform a priestly service and sacrifice ourselves and all this to the glory of God through Jesus Christ. That's why it ends with:

*acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

#### **4. Proclaim God's excellencies**

those who *do not believe... stumble... as they were destined to do*

9 But you are

*"a chosen race", (Is 43:20, Rom 9:33)*

*"a royal priesthood", (Ex 19:6, 23:22, Is 61:6)*

*"a holy nation", (Ex 19:6, 23:33)*

*"a people for his own possession", (Ex 19:5, 23:22, Deut 4:20, Is 43:22)*

*that you may proclaim the excellencies*

*of him*

*who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

10 Once you were *not a people,*

*but now you are God's people;*

*once you had not received mercy,*

*but now you have received mercy.*

At the end of verse 8 Peter described the destiny of the unbeliever: *those who do not believe... stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do*

Then he gives us the opposite as comfort: *"but you are"*

*"You", referring to the exiles, the believers, me and you.*

Note that he is speaking here in the present tense: ARE

Peter is so full of spiritual milk that verses 6 to 9 are made up of a whole bunch of quotes from Scripture that show what we already are. And what we are comes from Him.

But let's first look back at what we were. In verse 10 we see that we were *not a people* (a nation) and we were without *mercy*, so we were also *destined to stumble...*

What changed for us that Peter can now say *"but you are"* ?

**God** has called us... *out of darkness to his wonderful light —*

The results are two life changing *"buts"*:

*But now [we have] received mercy*

*But now [we are] God's people*

**From** verse 23, he was busy telling us that, in the Word, we will taste the goodness of God and by drinking this spiritual milk, we grow into living stones. Yesterday, he also showed us that, that knowledge, fills us with hope and changes our lives. Now we see how practical it is in Peter's life. He rejoices in this wonderful light, this honey of the Word, with a whole **bunch of quotes** from Scripture:

9 But **you** are

*"a **chosen race**", (Isaiah 43:20, Rom 9:33)*

*"a **royal priesthood**", (Exodus 19:6, 23:22, Isaiah 61:6)*

*"a **holy nation**", (Exodus 19:6, 23:33)*

*"a **people for his own possession**", (Exodus 19:5, 23:22, Deuteronomy 4:20, Isaiah 43:22)*

***that you may proclaim the excellencies of him***

He chose us, made us royal, holy, and His property. How can we not praise and glorify Him?

To be holy means to be set apart. We are not only set apart from something, but set aside for something: God's grace fills our hearts and causes us to overflow to proclaim God's **excellencies, His saving work, his goodness to us**. This is the conclusion of Peter's argument and quotations from the Word.

**Taste** the goodness with Peter from that passage in Isaiah that he praises and go tell it to others around you:

*1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my **chosen**, in whom my soul delights, **I have put my Spirit** upon him; he will bring forth **justice to the nations**. **2 He will** not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; **3 a bruised reed he will not break**, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will **faithfully** bring forth **justice**. **4 He will** not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for **his law**.*

***8 I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.***

*9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things **I now declare;***

*before they spring forth **I tell you of them.**" **10 Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise** from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. **11 Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice**, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela **sing for joy**, let them **shout** from the top of the mountains.*

*12 Let them **give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise** in the coastlands. (Isaiah 42:1-12)*

#### **4. Conclusion**

We have discussed four points today:

1. **You** are born again through the gospel

2. **You have** tasted goodness: Lay down what is bad and long for spiritual milk

3. Come to the living rock (Jesus Christ)

4. He called us, in His mercy and made us His people

Point 1 was further explained by pointing out:

Every person is perishable, but the Word is seed which leads to eternal life

We must long for the spiritual milk, because it is the spiritual milk that makes you grow  
Therefore, Peter calls you: come and let yourself into the spiritual home that brings  
sacrifices to the glory of God

The Rock, to which he calls us to, is Jesus Christ and to the believer it is a precious  
cornerstone, but it causes unbelievers to stumble

We were also destined for stumbling, but now He is precious to us

We are now a chosen, royal, holy, priesthood and property of God

So that... you can proclaim His excellencies, His saving work, yes glorify God!

Therefore, our theme for today:

*Born again:*

*Drink and share the spiritual milk  
to the Glory of God*

## **5. Reflection**

Today we have learned new things from God. Go through the text again and write down what you have learned about God and Jesus Christ, your only treasure.

## **6. Thanksgiving**

Today's passage again clearly showed how the knowledge of God fills our hearts with gratitude through which we just want to proclaim His excellencies and glorify Him. It changes us to overflow in acts of spiritual sacrifices. What is the Holy Spirit urging you to do today? Think carefully about this and write down at least one, very specific, act of spiritual sacrifice that will build the spiritual house and glorify God.

## **7. Worship**

Use what you have written down in your reflection and gratitude and conclude this session in prayer as the Spirit leads you.

Peace to you.