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Vital Nourishment from the Holy Spirit

When my wife Christy was pregnant with Harrison, it was an incredible season of celebration for us. With him being our firstborn, it was also a nervous time in our lives. We had many questions on how to do things and how to handle bringing a newborn into this world. My home office room was quickly turned into a nursery, and we began to collect baby toys and clothes. We really had no idea, even though we read books and had multitudes of people offering their opinions on everything.

We watched closely as our little baby slowly grew and matured, meeting his milestones in that first year. I personally didn't speak until I was four years old, but Harrison was developing right on the doctor's schedule. He was extra skinny, but so was I as a toddler, so we were okay with that. When young couples tell me that they are waiting to have children until they are ready, I tell them that they will be waiting a long time and to trust that the kids will teach them all they know.

Harrison is now almost a full-grown adult; he is finishing high school and is also taller than me. He has a wonderful life to walk into, full of hope and adventure. We all love to hear the stories of our children growing up, especially in the early days when they have so many firsts. First taste of sugar, the first time they rolled over, their first word, and their first step. These are some of the signs that we look to so we can mark their development.

In the family of God, Our Heavenly Father sees us in a similar way. It tells us in 1 Peter 2:2-3, *"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."* This could be one of the most important verses for the modern church to understand.

Peter is saying that at your salvation, you enter into the family the same way my son was born into my family, as a newborn baby. This is not symbolism, as in we are just babies in His sight, but it is actually an accurate picture of our standing. The moment you asked Jesus into your heart, a new creature was birthed and came into existence...you. You had never breathed real life or tasted real light until that glorious moment you were birthed into your Father's kingdom – never forget the angels celebrated that very moment because they understood the significance.

When I first read that verse in 1st Peter, I thought, like a Canadian mountain boy, that a great big glass of cold cow's milk is good for building myself some strong bones. However, a closer look reveals something specific from Peter. The wording he uses is specifically about newborn babes with their milk, referring to an infant nursing from his mother. This image is significant for us to see and should be the first verse taught to every believer the moment they are born again.

We should let every person know that now that they are a newborn, there is one place to find food to grow up. That is with the Holy Spirit himself acting the same way to you as a

nursing mother does to her baby. The most important activity for a newborn would be to ensure he receives all of his nutrition to grow up, which is no different for us believers.

About the Holy Spirit, Jesus said to his disciples in John 14:25-26, *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* Jesus is clear that they could not understand Him because they were not saved yet, but after becoming born again, they will have a Helper to nourish them in truth.

I am not calling the Holy Spirit a mother in this teaching, but I am saying that He will do for you what a nursing mother does for her newborn baby. What an essential picture of praying in tongues this is. It shows us the vital message that every believer should know from their beginning. How many Christians are malnourished because they haven't fed themselves from the teaching of the Holy Spirit? How many of us were encouraged to get busy building God's kingdom but never developing in our true spiritual man, always trapped in spiritual immaturity?

A baby laying gently on his mother's breast, nursing until he is full, is the proper pathway to maturity for all of us. The Holy Spirit gently giving us the exact truth that we need at that moment to continue to grow and become the person God wants us to be. So many serve God their whole lives with their outward man's efforts and talents because they never knew where to nurse from.

The message of spiritual maturity seems to have been lost in much of the modern church, but it has not been lost from God. We have access to the most incredible, intelligent, loving, and caring Teacher, and He is willing to walk with us every step from our nursery to the mountaintop of our life. The Holy Spirit will be your personal Helper and will always deliver the truth to you exactly where you are and exactly what you need. Let's engage with Him and give our lives into His hands by practicing praying in the Spirit each day so we can discover that nothing is impossible for God's children.

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