1 Peter 1 was about our getting a grasp on who we are, what we have been given, and what the Lord does to help us embrace our lives as His children, aliens on this earth. As our loving Father, He is always purifying our souls and removing all that is within us that restricts our ability to know Him, to love Him, to experience Him, and to fully embrace our identity as His sons. As foreigners in this world, we are in a war with the rulers of this world. The fight is for our minds. If we can be convinced that our home, our validation, acceptance, purpose, and so on, is in this world, then they win; which is why we are instructed to gird up the loins of our minds with the truth prepared for action—prepared for war. As the Lord's children, Jesus wants our minds, emotions, and our bodies completely to Himself so His holiness can be experienced by others in and through our lives. He wants us to realize that everything this world has to offer is futile and the inheritance we have been given from our forefathers is entirely worthless. As such, it must be rejected in whole and not in part.

The climatic expression of this war, however, is when we choose to love: to have brotherly love for others and to indulge in God's divine agape love with one another. For when we love, we have found the ability to live outside of this world's demands; we are empowered by the Spirit fully confident that we are passing through this world and what it offers is not for us. At that point of maturity, the world cannot hold us, it cannot control us, it cannot threaten us, and it cannot contain us. We are free to love others and most important free to love one another—those who are of like nature. That is truly living as one whose home is in heaven with the living God; as one who is mature, stable, and secure.

1 Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

With the reality of who we are and all that the Father does for us, now comes the reality that we have a choice in the matter—we have a role to play. The Spirit asks us to remove all evil behavior, which in this instance is defined as all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. This verb translated "putting aside" is in the *aorist middle participle*. So we know that being in the *aorist* tense it is to be how we live from beginning to end. We are to live as people who get rid of, lay aside, and cast off that which is innately evil. Being in the *middle* voice, it is something that must come from deep within our being; it is a choice we are to make as it will not be done for us. And being a *participle*, we are to continue choosing to get rid of all that is innately evil all the time. It is to be how we live, how we are known, and what uniquely preoccupies us—the removal of this stuff from our lives. Which is in stark contrast to what normally preoccupies us, which is self!

Now the Greek is clear, we are to put away <u>all</u> of these things; not some of them or part of them but all. We are not to think for a moment of time that as children of God these things are in anyway fitting—even to have in our back pocket just in case we need them. All of it needs to go.

So let's look at this list: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. We are going to dig into these to fully understand the width and breadth of these words and the extent to which this stuff infects our relationships. You may look at these words and feel that it does not describe you because you believe you are fundamentally good and a nice person and all that, and you have been a Christian for many years. But it might surprise you what evil lurks within. As we go through these explanations, I encourage you to get your mind and emotions around the word to its actual meaning; don't get hung up on any preconceived attachments to the word itself. And as we go through this, ask the Spirit of God to turn His spotlight of truth on your soul and convict you of the places within your being where this evil resides.

Malice: In the Greek, the root of this word can be translated as worthless, depraved, or injurious. And the actual word used here can be understood both in an active and passive expression. Actively, it can be understood as malignantly hurtful, nasty, unkind, mean, vindictive, spiteful, and malevolent. Passively, it can be understood as trouble making and mischievous. The reality is that whether it is actively or passively exhibited, it is injurious to others. It never builds up and encourages; it just destroys and quite often terrorizes those in your life. Elsewhere in the Bible this word is frequently rendered as wickedness.

Now, malice just happens to be a noun (as well as deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander) a thing, an entity that exists within you. As such, this entity exists separate from your identity are as a child of God; it is not innate to your new nature. Therefore, it is something that you can remove; you are not a slave to these forms of evil. Again, the Spirit wants us to know that this is not something

we have to live with but we can and must reject it as part of our lives.

Clearly, malice is in stark opposition to both brotherly love and God's agape love. As long as this thing lives within us, it will absolutely restrict our ability to access love and be a vessel of love. And this thing ultimately exhibits itself in all sorts of unbecoming behaviors. We have all been there and know this far too well. If someone has hurt us, maliciously, it is so difficult for us not to return that malice; after all, our justice demands it. Think about the things you will say in order to get your way and get what you want in the moment; think of who you will sacrifice. Honestly, I have been blown away at what can come out of my mouth and what I know has come out of your mouths. If we are honest, it is absolutely atrocious. I want you to think of the ways you intentionally manipulate a situation to try and get what you think you need. What you want is always such a high priority that it is so hard for you to even consider that what you're doing or how you're trying to accomplish your goal maliciously hurts, damages, uses, and takes advantage of others.

With that said, I do want to make note of the reality that as believers who, for many, have been raised in the system of religion, we have trained ourselves to look good and to give the impression that we are spiritual regardless of what is actually going on inside of our souls. But think of how some of the more subtle attributes of this malicious evil can play out in our relationships. Think about the little jabs you throw at others or the in-your-face statements that are intended to hurt and are simply unkind and mean. Think about what you intentionally don't say in certain situations all because you don't want a person to feel cared for, supported, encouraged, and so on. You would rather have them be without if you

think you are without. Then think of the voluminous thoughts that you have towards others that are downright vindictive and spiteful. Your goodness may be so advanced that you do not let those things come pouring out of your body as others may do, but they are infecting you none the less in your spirit, and you are rotting under the infection.

Now think of the more passive ways that you tend to make trouble and mischief and are just disobedient to the nature of the godly relationship that you should have with one another. You know what someone needs and wants in a relationship and you just passively stand by and watch never lifting a finger. Another example is when you know of an area where a person has been deeply wounded or continually struggle, and you bring up things that tend to push on their buttons. It is not blatant, overt, it is not aggressive, and it is not something that you can readily be caught doing, but you know you are doing it none-the-less. Think of the way you will say or suggest things to others that cleverly place a third party in a not so good light and then you just saunter away acting as if you did nothing. What you said may even be the truth, but your motives are not to help that person. Even if you are not intentionally trying to hurt them, you really don't care how the impact of your words will have on their life. Malice is dark, it is evil, it is deprayed, it is hurtful, it causes deep injury, and its bite lasts.

Deceit: amounts to deliberate dishonesty; lying to one another. This happens on so many levels. Some of it is reactive and in the moment where we are caught, embarrassed, or something to that affect, and we just lie. Sometimes there is not even a legitimate reason to lie; but we do it anyways, like it's a bad habit. Some of our deceit however is quite intentional. For example, when we self-protect and

care for ourselves we are simply not being honest about the hurt and pain we are experiencing in a relationship. We simply don't want to speak the truth, we know we should but we don't. We would rather just dig in and care for ourselves.

Whether our deceit is reactive or intentional, it is to be removed and discarded from our lives like an old rag. Again, I want you to check yourself. You may be thinking that you don't lie to others, but that is so unrealistic. When you know someone else needs to hear the truth but out of fear you refuse to tell them the truth, you operate deceitfully. You feign acceptance and support of their choices because of your fear. You refuse to say the hard things, the truthful things, because you don't want to lose the friendship, you don't want them to get mad at you because you don't want to have disruption in your already busy life, and so on. It is not worth it to you, the person is not worth it to you, and so you deceive.

The absence of deceit is one of the notable characteristics of Jesus. 1 Peter 2:21-22 says, "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone." Jesus always spoke the truth and He never waned from it regardless of what would happen to Him. The reality is that Jesus said some very hard things that would have been so hurtful to those that heard them; but it was always a necessary truth. He did not say it just to hurt them; rather, to get them to live in reality and accept the fact that they are not good and they are not like God, for they are in desperate need of God's goodness.

Hypocrisy: is a type of deceit, but it stands on its own because in this context it seems to be near and dear to one of the things which God hates the most: religious falsity. This is where you cloak under "goodness" the corruption that is in

your soul. It is where you do things for others seemingly to care for them or to bless them but all the while you have other selfish motives controlling you. If we are brutally honest, we all control so much of what we want others to think of us; and it is not just "not right," it is hypocrisy. I actually think this type of living over time stresses us out so much that it makes us sick emotionally, physically, and it eats away at our soul. Some people have really honed this skill and others are quite amateurish in their attempts to conceal who and what they really are, but hypocrisy is an epidemic sickness in the realm of Christianity. We are so desperate to be found good that we will do whatever it takes to convince people of this fallacy.

I said before that God hates this trait. We see this demonstrated in the way Jesus blasted the religious leaders of His day; He absolutely had no tolerance for this kind of behavior. He spoke the truth and wow it was rough, but it needed to be said. These religious leaders held the power of goodness and everyone else was subject to their hidden wickedness, so it was time to set the record straight. Jesus said:

Matthew 23:25-33

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

And you think that some of the things I have said to you are rough? Jesus simply has no room for this type of deceit because of how many people it hurts. We must stop pretending to be something that we are not. Jesus wants us to be honest and if we are truly honest about where we are at, regardless of how immature it may be, then He can build us up and grow us from that place. But if we keep pretending we will never grow into maturity, we will just get better and better at hiding, lying, and pretending.

Hypocrisy, pretending to be something other than what you really are, is in stark contrast to the sincere or unfeigned love we are to have for one another (1:22). And just so you know, hypocrisy is a sign of those who live in the end times. 1 Timothy 4:1-2 says "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead." Pretending leads to more pretending which leads to more pretending and before you know it your conscience is dull and over time it

will become dead and you will find that apostasy will be your life.

Envy: can be described as resentful discontent; a desire to have something that one does not have but desires to possess. It is an emotion that takes over when we lack, or think we lack, another's qualities, achievements, or possessions that we deem superior or more desirous to our own. For example, we are told that the religious leaders turned against Jesus out of envy (*Matthew 27:18; Mark 15:10*). They could not garnish the natural respect and honor that Jesus did so they wanted Him out of the way. They wanted the people to once again honor them because of their position, title, and self promotion.

Envy, without question, is one of the most potent causes of unhappiness in our lives. Again, check yourself. Where is your unhappiness rooted? It is usually anchored in a deep regret over what you think you should have, what you think you are entitled to, what you think others owe you, and what you want to get out of this life. Envy is a sign of one who has not made the choice to live like an alien trusting that God gave you, has given you, and will give you everything that His wisdom and love dictates is best for your life.

Slander: is the intentional disparagement of another and includes backbiting and evil speaking. You might also call it defamation. As such, what you say can be true or it can be a lie, but everything comes down to the motives. Jesus said some pretty difficult things but it was not slanderous. His intention was not to disparage the false religious leaders but to unmask their hypocrisy so they would have a moment of honesty such that they might repent. He also said what He said so those who blindly and compulsively follow them could choose to wisely stop. So again, it all comes down to the motives. Slander is about demeaning another such

that others think less of them and that is exactly what you wanted; you wanted to diminish their reputation in the eyes of others. What you are saying is not for their benefit, it is not for the protection of others; but it is a weird way that you exalt yourself above another. It is a really gross expression of the "Me."

All of this, all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, must be put away, or tossed aside as an old garment. These things have been such a part of our life for so long that we think they are part of us. But we must remember that they are not; they are an entity unto themselves; accordingly, we can make the choice, and we must make the choice, to separate from them and throw them away. That is our part of choosing to live like an alien.

To help us discard all this wickedness, we are told: "Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." By way of technicalities, "in respect to salvation" is not in the original Greek. It was put there by the translators for context just in case you missed the point of the passage. In the Greek it literally reads: "As new born babies long for the pure milk of the word that thereby you may grow."

Like newborn babies—let's start with the sarcasm and then move on to an understanding of this metaphor. Let me just say, if malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander still have a strong pull in your soul and tends to invade your relationships, then I am sorry to say it but you are still a new born in terms of your spirituality. You're a baby—an infant—and you have not grown up. By the way, the number of years that you have been a Christian has nothing to do with your spiritual maturity. Maturity is proven out by the fruit of your life. If brotherly love marks your life and if God's divine love is something to which others can attest to

having received from you and regularly shared with you, then there is evidence and proof of your maturity. But don't fool yourself into thinking that just because you know how to act like a Christian and even know the scriptures that you are mature. It is all proven out in the fruit of love.

What is characteristic of a new born baby other than the fact that the child cries a lot, sleeps a lot, is totally dependent upon others for survival, and can virtually do nothing on their own? The child craves milk. He or she comes out of the womb with no idea what to expect since he or she has been fed in the womb day after day having been fully satisfied, receiving all the nutrition, without ever engaging the pleasure centers of the mouth. But once the child is in this world and learns to latch a hold of the breast, he or she experiences all sorts of wonderful sensations of joy and pleasure that was previously unknown. The child suckles (which is fun), the milk is warm and comforting, it excites his or her taste buds, and it tastes so creamy and wonderful, it fills the child's belly and the child experiences all this bonding and intimate attachment with Mom. It is an amazing experience. And once the child experiences this pleasure, comfort, satisfaction, and intimacy, they want more and more and more. Who wouldn't?

That is the imagery. We are to crave, long for, or desire the pure milk of the Word for it will bring us pleasure, comfort, satisfaction and intimacy with the Lord and with one another. "Long for" is in the *aorist active imperative*; and I find it odd that it is put into a command (the *imperative*). The *aorist* tense just means that it is to be our way of life from beginning to end; it is to be how we live—longing for the Word. The *active* voice means we are the ones doing it. All of that is understandable. But think about things we crave, long for and desire. Are they

things that we can be commanded to want or are they things that just happen? The things I crave tend to be sensory responses and compulsions and not reactions to commands. If you were to command me to crave blue cheese I would have to laugh at you and say it is never going to happen. Likewise, if I command you to crave exercise, many of you would just laugh at me. But maybe the Spirit knows a bit more about our construct than you and I.

Let's just take the example of exercise. If I command you to exercise and you go out and try to do a really intense work out you will probably throw up and hate your life and never put your exercise clothes on ever again. But if I ease you into it a bit at a time and you make the choice that this was going to be your way of life eventually over many months your body will adapt and come to desire exercise. It is good for the body (unlike Blue Cheese) and you will feel better, be healthier, perform better, and before too long your body will want to experience the release of endorphins, the pleasure, that comes from exercise. It's science. And perhaps that is the same way with the pure milk of the Word. In commanding us to long for it, He is instructing us to drink it up and keep drinking it up and never stop drinking it up knowing that before too long, over many months, we will come to desire it and crave it and long for it—and like a new born we will need it to live. The obedience to this command therefore is not a response but it is in a life-style choice (hence, the *aorist* tense).

The milk of the Word is also pure, unadulterated, and sincere. In other words, it will never compromise you, it will never corrupt you, it will never poison you, it will never lead you astray, it never spoils, and it will always benefit you. I want you to understand that it is always safe to indulge in the pure milk of the Word for

by it you may grow up if you do the work to obey the command to long for it. Now it is interesting that it says <u>may</u> grow up and not that you <u>will</u> grow up. "Grow" is in the *aorist passive subjunctive*. In the *aorist*, growing up should be your life from beginning to end; you should always be maturing. The *passive* indicates that God, through the Word will grow you up; He will do it. But the *subjunctive* indicates that you may not actually grow up. It is a toss-up. It depends on what else you do; you have a choice in the matter. For example, if you don't put away all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander then there is a pretty good chance you will not grow up. If you don't embrace the idea that you are an alien and choose to live as an alien, then there is a pretty good chance you will not grow up. Remember the staircase of maturity we studied: diligence, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly love, and agape love. These are steps you must choose to walk. The Holy Spirit will enable you as He has given you everything you need for life and godliness, but you still have to choose to walk (*2 Peter 1:3-11*).

And this is why mere knowledge of the Word is not the same as maturity in the Word of God. A lot of people read the Word of God, study the Word, know the Word, and can quote you the Word, but they are not mature proven by the fact that their lives are not marked by brotherly love and they do not indulge in and share God's divine agape love with those of like nature. There is such a big difference between knowing the truth and choosing to make the truth your truth. One will grow you up in maturity as a spiritual man or woman and the other will leave you a mere infant. The Lord wants the pure milk of the Word to please you, fill you, satisfy you, and be your nutrition. If you train yourself in being obedient

to the command to long for the pure milk of the Word, it will satisfy your soul far more deeply and completely than the way the wickedness of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander tend to satisfy that selfishness within you.

Now, let's put some definition to this imagery of milk. We can do that by understanding how else it is used by the Spirit in the scriptures.

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Concerning him {Jesus} we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you

are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

So milk is an image which captures our learning the elementary teachings of Christ; whereas, meat is an image which captures a life of maturity as those who eat meat live the word of righteousness and who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Now clearly, in these passages, the fact that these people still need milk is to their detriment. They should be eating meat by now and growing in maturity. You know how it is; if you see a six-year old still latched to his mother's breast it is kind of gross and freaky. I have seen it and it is just not right. It is so unbecoming, not natural, and bizarre. It is not how it is supposed to be. Milk is important for an infant, but very quickly a child needs to be weaned from milk and put on solid food so they can grow appropriately. Milk provides the appropriate nutrition for an infant but is wholly insufficient for a person to grow into maturity as an adult.

The Spirit connected this way of living to the flesh. These people were still caught up in jealousy and strife—the sorts of things we saw in our list: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Again, check yourself. Are you still fleshly? Those of you who have been in this church for any amount of time have been provided a lot of meat. Every week it is there for your taking. It is a banquet rich, full, nutritious, filled with many courses, and it is delicious, if I say so myself; but you are the one who has to decide to indulge and eat. If however you find that you are still fleshly, then you are still a child. I know it might bum you out to face this reality that you need milk and are not mature; but it is better to face it, admit

it, and be realistic rather than trying to pretend and be a hypocrite living a deceitful life. Before long you will just be an old Christian still needing the breast; and it will be so not right. I know that the truth hurts, but let the truth be your truth for if you do you will then be able to start to grow into the mature man or woman that you need to be. And remember, you are not the best one to determine if you are mature. You may believe you are, but the fruit that is experienced from others will be the true indication of your maturity, not your opinion of yourself.

The elementary teachings of Christ, the milk, is the instruction that God loves you; God is good and you are NOT; God chose you; Jesus is your Lord and you belong to Him by grace; having your sins forgiven you have been set free from condemnation; He has a plan for your life and that plan is good; you have been saved and get to go to heaven and others don't. In other words, milk is all about what God has done for you; it's all about you. Can you see why the Spirit used the image of an infant; everything must be done for them. And if that is the kind of instruction you need to make it through your day, then I hate to say it but you are still an infant. The milk is wonderful and you need it, but to mature you will need to keep drinking so you can grow and eventually transition to meat.

The meat of the Word is spiritual instruction about what you can do for others. It is about the word of righteousness living in and through your body such that you are holy as He is holy. It is about others. It is about the body. It is about your life being surrendered and given over to others of like nature so they can experience Jesus in you. It is not about your demands, your rights, and your expectations of what others can do for you. It is about giving up your demands,

your rights, and your expectations so you can freely love others the way God desires you to love. Again, if you find yourself manically and compulsively focused on what you are not getting, what you think you need, what others are not doing for you and giving you, and so on; if you're constantly crying out for attention, crying out to be loved, crying out to be taken care of; then you are an infant. It is still all about you and you have not matured for you do not live for others but for yourself.

If you are an infant, it is time to get over the embarrassment and the shame and it is time to do the work because you are commanded to long for the pure milk of the Word. There is no other way. You must start at the beginning and drink and drink until the Word becomes your very craving. Again, this is not about knowledge of the Word. Many who are still infants are not lacking knowledge, but what they are lacking is true application. You need to drink of the milk until the truth becomes your truth; until you want nothing other than to find yourself in the truth and at total rest with the truth. Then you will be ready to move on.

Long for the pure milk of the Word for by it you may grow—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. "O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him" (*Psalm 34:8*)! The Lord is good. He has saved you. He gave up His glory to come and die for you so you can be forgiven and have life eternal. He gave you the gift of His Spirit to live in your being and empower you. He even made a new nature within you that is in His image: righteous, holy, and true (*Ephesians 4:24*). According to *Psalm 32:8-9*, He has guided you along the best pathways for your life and He has continually watched over you. I could go on and on and on. The point is that it does not matter if you

are a child; if you have tasted of His goodness towards you, then this command is for you: long for the pure milk of the Word.

In closing I want to read *Psalm 34* because it is not just amazing but the entire thing is so applicable to what we studied tonight. Just meditate on this as I read and consider the truth.

Psalm 34

I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing. Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord. Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their

cries for help. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken! Calamity will surely overtake the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. It is time to grow up. It is time to stop making it all about the "Me." It is time to stop terrorizing all those in your life by demanding they constantly tend to the "Me." It is a heavy burden that you ask others to carry. It is time to give up infancy and become the mature man or woman that you have been set apart to be. It is time to live like an alien who no longer demands for everyone to love them but is a person whose life is marked by love for others. You have the meat, and it will still be here when you are fully ready to indulge. But for now long for the pure milk of the Word.

Let's Pray