

Spiritual Appetite

by Wayne Goff

Growing up as children, we are taught by our parents to eat nutritious foods, to clean our plates, and to not waste. This process also compelled us to eat some things that might have been healthy, but were not enjoyed just the same.

Once we become adults and are responsible for ourselves, then we begin to see the eating habits and patterns that reflect our true desires. No longer is there anyone to make us eat our vegetables, or cottage cheese, etc. We no longer are forced to cut down on our sugar intake, and more often than not we may choose to help ourselves to a second dessert! We have no one to blame but ourselves.

Now here is my point and application. We are taught in the New Testament to “desire the pure milk of the word” (1 Pet. 2:2) and as we develop spiritually to come to partake of “solid food” (Heb. 5:14). Of this spiritual nourishment, Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (Jn. 6:35). Everything mankind needs to go from earth to heaven is found in Jesus Christ! Or as Peter wrote: “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (2 Pet. 1:3).

So is there a problem? With some brethren, we must answer an unfortunate “yes.” Paul identified some in Corinth who were still “carnal” and spiritual “babes” (1 Cor. 3:1). They were not developing properly and were still drinking only spiritual milk. Did they say to themselves, “But I don’t like the meat of God’s Word!”? Yet we need God’s Word in our hearts and minds to become mature disciples of Christ. It is healthy, it is nutritious, it will save our souls! The solution, I believe, is two-fold: (1) Learn to like that which is good for you, and (2) Learn that earthly people must develop a spiritual appetite. The more we partake of God’s Word, the more we will like it, and the more we will be transformed from earthly-minded to spiritually-minded people.

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