

Date: 11 August 2019

Speaker: Brother Samuel Joseph

Topic: Newborn Babes and Lively Stones

Scripture text: 1 Peter 2:1-5

1. Apostle Peter encourages the suffering believers to grow. There are two aspects to this growth - personal (verses 1-3) and corporate (verses 4-5). These two are linked and inseparable. When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a drastic change. We are no longer the old man, but are transformed and now we are a new man and a new desire. Spiritual birth brings a spiritual desire.

Personal Growth

2. How do we desire? We desire as newborn babes. This means that the desire is pure without ulterior motives or out of fear or in order to conform. The desire is also strong because we will always be seeking and never be tired. What do we desire? We desire the sincere milk of God's Word. It is an appropriate nourishment, not for carnal entertainment. Why do we desire? We desire in order to grow. This is God's ordained means to grow. Every newborn babe is to grow. If we neglect the study of God's Word, we will not grow. Having experienced God's grace, how can we not want to know Him and grow in Him?

Corporate Growth

3. Not just personal or individual growth, there is also a corporate aspect to it. It is the corporate growth of the church since we are described as lively stones and part of a building. The foundation of the building is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the lively stone, the chief cornerstone. We are now part of this building founded on Him. Our faith is a living faith. The church is not a lifeless monument. We are accepted by God and precious in His sight. The function of the building is to be a spiritual house. Everyone has a function and no one is redundant. The whole church grows together, supporting one another. There is also a priestly function, where we are to be holy set apart, making intercession. This is an acceptable function and a great privilege.