

Characteristics of a Spiritual Baby

Text: 1 Cor. 3:1-3

- ❖ In this passage of Scripture, the apostle Paul speaks of the Corinthian Christians as being immature babies.
 - Rather than having grown up and matured in the Lord, these Christians were still carnal and selfish babies who were bringing shame to the name of Jesus Christ.
 - We are going to look at some characteristics of a spiritual baby.
- ❖ **1. They Find Yourself Often Fighting with Other Christians**
 - Babies will fight about anything and everything.
 - Left to themselves, young siblings will slap, pull hair, kick, poke, punch, argue and scream.
 - They haven't really learned that *they aren't enemies*, so they live as though there were.
 - As a Christian, your enemies are the world, the flesh, and the Devil.
 - Other Christians are NOT your enemies.
 - In the above Scripture, Paul points out envy, strife and division as characteristics of *babies!*
 - Yet, our churches are filled with Christians who see nothing better to do than fight with other church members.
 - If someone is presently "mad" and fighting with another Christian about something?
 - Is the cause of his fight something that Jesus would also fight about?
 - If not, then that person is a baby and needs to GROW UP and follow his Lord.
- ❖ **2. They Enjoy Being the Center of Attention**
 - A baby delights in being the center of attention.
 - If someone else is receiving attention, then a baby will do or say something to put *himself* in the spotlight.
 - Many Christians are like this.
 - Rather than wait for their turn (I Pet. 5:6), spiritual babies will speak up, or step out, or act up, or show out in an effort to draw attention to themselves.
 - John said, in III John 1:9, "**I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.**"
 - Diotrephes was a spiritual baby, so he misbehaved by rejecting John.
 - John would have received too much attention, so the spotlight baby turned him away.
- ❖ **3. They Are Shallow in Your Knowledge of the Scriptures**
 - Babies have very little knowledge and understanding, so they will drink poison, eat insects, play in the streets, and even jump into water far over their heads.
 - They have a great lack of knowledge and understanding, so they must rely on others to teach them.
 - The Bible says in I Peter 2:2, "**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.**"

- Just as a baby needs to grow from his mother's milk, a Christian baby needs to grow from the word of God.
 - If you are rather shallow in your knowledge of the Scriptures, then you are just as shallow about applying the Scriptures to your own life.
 - You can't possibly be obeying the Bible if you aren't faithfully reading it.
 - This makes you a spiritual baby. God wants you to GROW UP to be a good soldier for Christ.
- ❖ **4. They Are Easily Offended**
- Babies are very sensitive, and their feelings are easily hurt.
 - When things don't go their way, they will whine, cry, pout, sulk, and even throw tantrums.
 - They haven't learned to endure affliction, so they only know to be offended when trouble comes.
 - Psalm 119:165 says, "**Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.**"
 - The word of God can make you strong and mature.
 - Faith in God's great promises can give you the strength to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (II Tim. 2:3).
- ❖ **5. They Are Never Satisfied**
- A baby never ceases to whimper and cry for things.
 - He's hungry, so you feed him.
 - Then he's tired, so you give him a nap.
 - He then wakes up with a wet diaper.
 - You change the diaper, then he wants to play.
 - You refuse to play, so he cries.
 - Then he's hot.
 - Then he's cold.
 - Then he bumps his head.
 - A baby is just never satisfied.
 - Many of God's people are like this.
 - They whimper about everything.
 - The preacher preaches too long.
 - He didn't shake your hand today.
 - He didn't smile at you.
 - Sally's dress is nicer than your dress.
 - George's wife is prettier than your wife.
 - Doesn't old Fred know that he's sitting in *your* pew?
 - By the way, who authorized that new wall paper?
 - No one consulted *your* opinion.
 - Our churches are just filled with this kind of never-ending nagging and murmuring.
 - While the mature Christians are praying, studying, working or winning souls, the murmuring little babies are being used of Satan to hinder and frustrate the real work of the ministry.
 - The Bible says in Numbers 11:1, "**And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD . . .**"

- God is DISPLEASED with your constant murmuring, and He will judge you for it if it doesn't stop.
 - You, as a born-again child of God, are expected to be CONTENT, THANKFUL and REJOICING in the Lord (Philip. 4:4; 4:11; I Thes. 5:18).
 - Anything less is SIN.
- ❖ **5. They Have Trouble Staying Clean**
- A baby simply cannot stay clean.
 - You can give him a bath and powder him real nice, but, if you aren't careful, he'll be in a mess before you can drain the bath water.
 - He will play in the flower pot.
 - He will play in the toilet.
 - He will play in the cat litter.
 - Then he will spill the apple juice all over himself.
 - A baby will not stay clean.
 - Jesus said, "**Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you,**" (John 15:3) yet most Christians don't spend even one tenth of the time reading their Bible that they waste watching television.
 - No wonder you can't stay clean!
 - You're a spiritual baby, always defiling yourself with sin.
- ❖ **6. They Become Jealous Over the Success of Others**
- A baby only cares about himself.
 - He is totally self-centered, so he always wants what others have.
 - No matter how many toys he has, he will throw a fit if he cannot have another child's toy.
 - If another child is receiving special attention, then a baby will become jealous and fight to have the attention all for himself.
 - Spiritual babies are the same.
 - They become jealous when other Christians receive a special blessings.
 - They can't rejoice with those that rejoice because they are too busy being jealous!
 - Are you jealous because someone sings better than you, or because someone knows the Bible better than you?
 - They are jealous because the preacher often speaks well of a certain person, but that person isn't them?
 - It bothers them that someone is getting married while they are still single?
 - As a Christian our eyes should be upon your Saviour, not upon other Christians (Heb. 12:2).
 - If you find yourself focusing on the affairs of others, then maybe it's because you are still a babe in Christ and you need to grow up.
 - There will always be some babies in our churches.
 - The little ones are in the nursery, and the big ones are in the pews, but YOU don't have to be one of them.
 - Your spiritual growth is your personal responsibility.
 - Your primary goal in life should be to become LIKE Jesus Christ.
 - If you wear His holy name (CHRISTIAN), then you should live a life that is worthy of His name.

- If God has shown you that you are a spiritual baby, then why not confess your sin right now and make a commitment to start growing.
 - Why not put off your spiritual diapers and put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18)?
 - **“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (II Peter 3:18)**