

In 1:22-2:3 Peter looks further at what the holy and imperishable life looks like. He draws a few themes together that he has already mentioned - new birth, eternal life, purified for God, glory, obedience. In doing so he looks at the source of our salvation, it's purpose and how that should be lived out (glory in action). Interestingly, he chooses to point out a corporate goal – brotherly (and sisterly) love.

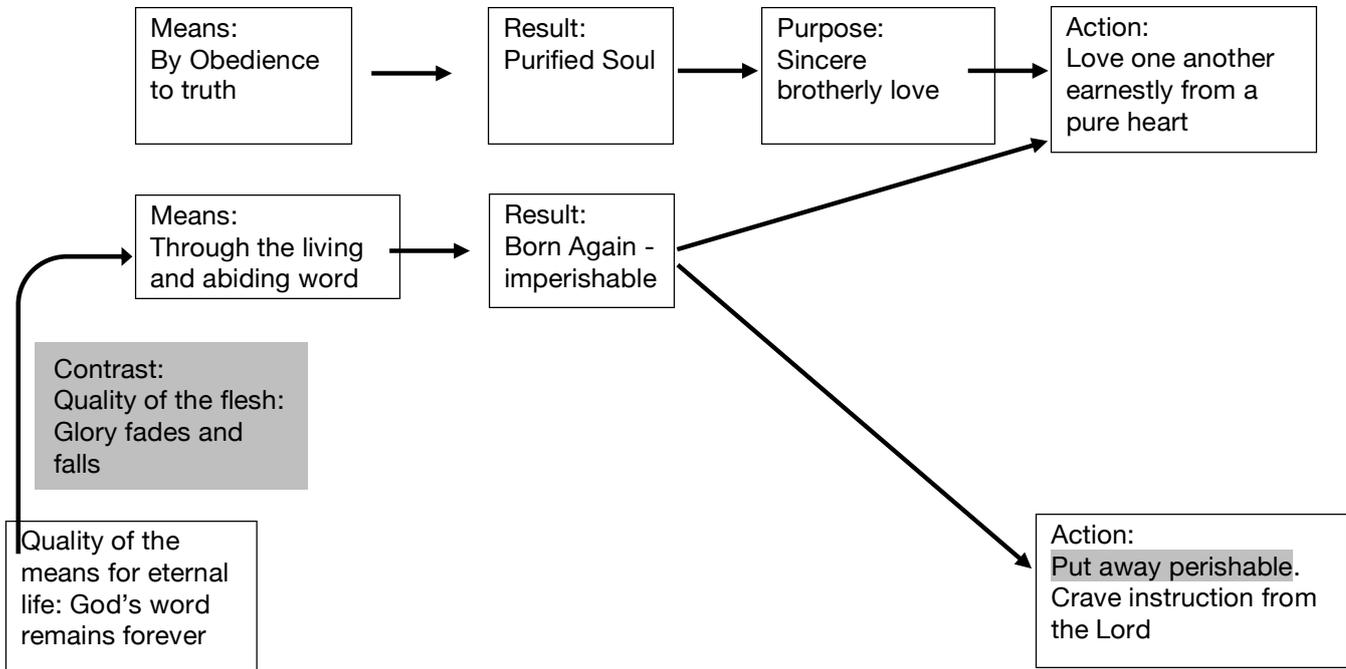
When we think of cravings we tend to think of things that will satisfy us – things that will be for our good. This section of scripture asks us to long for God's word for our eternal good and particularly for the benefit of others – 'love one another earnestly from a pure heart'. These are cravings that will result in a corporate good – one glory in us for which we can praise God.

Obedience turns up in verse 22 for the third time in the book. Obedience in the western world is often seen as acting to please another for personal reward or to avoid sanction. It is often viewed negatively. The logic of verses 22 and 23 sees obedience differently. The resulting good works and putting off of bad behaviour are a result of the change of identity in the believer from perishable to imperishable.

What is the logic of verses 22-25? Sometimes highlighting connecting words or drawing a diagram can help work out how different ideas and actions interrelate. Here is an example of this. (You could do something like this on a piece of paper with key words and see if together you can work out the logic flow – it doesn't have to look like the one below because, for example, I have changed the word order it could be done differently.)

22 Having purified your souls **by** your obedience to the truth **for** a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
 23 **since** you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through** the living and abiding word of God;
 24 **for**
 "All flesh is like grass
 and all its glory like the flower of grass.
 The grass withers,
 and the flower falls,
 25 **but** the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you. 1 **So** put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.



Some observations from the passage expressed in the diagram - There is a parallel perspective on how salvation happens (human reception and God's action) and how it affects our heart and actions. There is also a contrast between humanity's temporary glory and God's eternal glory.

Key idea - One glimpse of glory (see also 1:7b) in those now purified is brotherly love. Part of that is putting off things that are unloving. The holy imperishable life is to be expressed in care for others which is fueled by the promises and instruction of God. Given the gospel, we are going to be with each other for a very long time.

This study will explore why we do what we are called to do and to recognise those things that look to pull us away from our identity. All in all it will be exploring how we can grow up in our salvation both through understanding how God has changed us and what we should be longing for.

1 PETER CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Study 3 1:22-2:3

Are there certain things that you long for at a certain time (flat Coke at the end of a big bike ride, choc top at the movies)?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

It has been said that words are powerful. In what way and for whom? From 1 Peter 1:23-25 (also 10-12) What do we learn about God's word and humanity's words? (v.23-25 also 10-12)

Our words	God's word

What are we more inclined to listen to?

Obedience has already been mentioned in 1:2 and 14 and now appears at the start of v.22-25 (this could be done on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard to show how other things relate to obedience). Looking at these together, how do they help us think about what that means?

How do verses 22-25 explain the start and purpose of the Christian life? What is the reason for loving other people?

Look over chapter 1

What things are described as perishable and what as imperishable? (List the verse number and what is described as perishable or imperishable)

Perishable	Imperishable

From 2:1 and the above list, What perishable things grab your heart the most? Why is this the case?

What should imperishable cravings be replaced with? What should this new craving do? (2:2) Where does it start? (2:3) How does this fit in with the call to love one another? How could these things be expressed together as God's people?

How can we 'grow up to salvation'? How can we do it together?