

up and tell people they should lay aside malice and evil speakings; it's very easy. But it means much more when you sit or kneel in your private room, ~~XXXX~~ and you read it, saying, "Lay aside all malice," you say, "Have I laid aside all malice? Have I laid aside all evil speakings? O, this fellow over here, he says mean things about me, so, of course, you can't blame me for saying occasionally some ^{thing} mean ~~things~~ about him -- after all, think what he said about me." You will find that most Christians have got a blind spot somewhere. They do not see ^{definite} ~~some~~ things ^{in their life} ~~that~~ they ought to see if/the Scripture they would say, Is there a way in which that applies to me? Do I have any malice in my heart? Do I have guile and hypocrisy? Do I think I am rather clever in the way I do something when actually it's hypocrisy? Do I give a pleasant impressi^on to somebody when really I'm in utter disagreement with what he says? "All evil speakings." Do I really completely lay these aside? Then the next verse, "As newborn babes..." Are you a newborn babe? Think of it for a minute. Are you a babe in Christ at all? Have you heard the Word of God all your life, and been in a Christian environment, and therefore have taken on many of the Christian virtues and outward signs of the Christian life, without in your heart experiencing that new birth? Are you, actually, a newborn babe? "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word..." Do I really desire it, or do I do it as a duty? And if I do it as a duty, merely, let me pray that God will give me the desire, for God answers the prayer of one who seeks the blessings that He is so anxious to pour out. "The sincere milk of the Word." Sincere - without adulteration; that which comes directly from the Word. Is that the kind of milk you desire, or do you find it so pleasant to listen to a wonderful speaker? Is this more interesting to you ~~than~~ to study God's Word for yourself? I think I have just given this as a few examples of how/we should go through the Scriptures, applying it directly and personally to our own lives. But if you just do this, you can get off into all sorts of vagaries, absurdities, and fanaticisms. By itself, it is like an automobile ^{which} ~~that~~ has wheels only on one side and not on the other. If you have them only on either side you will go into the ditch. But if you have