



# 7 STEPS TO BIBLE SKILLS

Step 7: The Bible and Me





# STEP 7: THE BIBLE AND ME

# Bringing it all together

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- All of the steps we have taken will be of no value unless we practice them.
- God desires to speak to you through His Word, which is why it is imperative that you desire to hear from Him. Scripture describes this as having "eyes to see" and "ears to hear".
- Why have so many throughout history and even today risk their lives for the sake of the Bible? Because it has transformed their hearts and they believe it truly is the Word of God.

# When mere belief isn't enough

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- "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." James 2:19
- Just admitting faith in the Bible is only the first step; you need to know *why* you believe it – not because you're "supposed to," but because your heart, mind and will have been transformed by its truth.
- If we claim to believe the Bible but don't take time to read it, can we truly say that we believe what it says?

# Owning vs. Renting our faith

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- Have you ever rented something? Maybe a car, a home, or something else? How did you treat that thing? Did you treat it as well as you might have if you owned it?
- This is the difference between owning and renting our faith. If we believe simply because it's what our parents did or because it's what is expected of us, but have not taken the step of cultivating our own relationship with Christ, then we are merely renting our faith and we cannot please God with such shallow faith.
- "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." - Hebrews 11:6

# How to cultivate your faith

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- Read the Bible - it can do nothing for you if you don't read it.
- Some of God's promises when we read the Bible:
  - You will get to know Jesus (2 Peter 1:1-12)
  - Your mind will be changed to think like God (Romans 12:2)
  - Your faith will grow stronger (Romans 10:17)
  - Your love for Jesus will be proven (Jon 14:21)
  - You will be free from fear (Proverbs 1:32-33)
  - You will have joy (John 15:11)
  - You will have peace (Philippians 4:9)
  - You will have health (Proverbs 4:20-22)
  - You will gain knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:5; 2:6)

# How to cultivate your faith

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- Be a willing learner
  - Be eager to learn from the Bible
  - Find and listen to strong Bible teachers and preachers who practice what they preach/ teach. Ask yourself: does this teacher exhibit the blessings on that list? Do they exhibit good fruit (the fruit of the Spirit)?
  - Attend Bible studies and classes frequently
- Plan a regular time for reading
  - Decide on a regular time to read your Bible daily (morning, evening, etc.)
  - Make it a dedicated time between You and God
- Have a plan for reading
  - Find a good devotional (the Bible App, Lutheran Hour, Our Daily Bread, etc.)
  - Read from a book of the Bible only until you have read a complete teaching or story. Then stop and meditate on it.

# How to cultivate your faith

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- Meditate on the Word
  - Pray before you read. Ask God to help you understand it. Thank Him for His word. Ask Him to show you how to apply it in your own life.
  - Prayer "tills the soil" of your heart so that it is receptive to the seed of faith
- Trust the Holy Spirit
  - Don't rush through or try to read too much at a time. Allow God's Holy Spirit to guide you deeper into all Truth (John 16:13).
- Take notes
  - When you come across a Scripture that is particularly helpful for you, highlight it, write it down and begin to memorize it.
  - Write down any thoughts you have or things that the Holy Spirit reveals to you as you read. Keep them in a prayer journal.



# How to cultivate your faith

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- Think about God's Word
  - "Meditate" simply means "continued, focused thought"
  - *Ruminate* on it; let the Word of God guide your thought life as you go throughout your day. Ask questions like "What does God say about this?"
  
- Memorize God's Word
  - It helps you make wise decisions
  - It will help you to be encouraged or to encourage others
  - It will help you share Your faith and be a witness to others

# How to cultivate your faith

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- Obey God's Word
  - It is possible to know God's Word very well, yet still be living in a way that dishonors and displeases Him.
  - If you truly want to please God, you will want to obey Him.
  - Ask God to change the desires of your heart so that your will matches His will.
  - "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23)
- Get Started
  - Choose a Bible reading plan (you may use the "Scriptures for Daily Bible Reading" chart in your study guide)
  - Record the Scriptures you read
  - If you miss a day, don't get discouraged; pick back up where you left off
  - God's blessings will come, and that is the true reward
  - Start building a Bible reading habit today!