How Will Studying the Bible Help Me?

Last week I shared with you that the Bible is no ordinary book. The words within its pages are like medicine to your soul. It has the power to change your life because there is life in the Word!

* Hebrew 4:12 says, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

What does this scripture mean? We will come back to this scripture later.

Jesus says in John 8:31-32 (AMP), “If you abide in My word [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth...and the truth will set you free….”

These verses have brought me to a simple conclusion: If we don’t study God’s Word consistently and apply its truth to our lives, God does not recognizes us as disciples and we remain enslaved by a lack of knowledge; unable to bring glory to God through faith as a maturing Christian.

No matter where you are in your walk with God, let me encourage you to start spending time in His Word today and be determined to stick with it for life. You’ll find that every time you study the Bible and pay attention to what you’re reading, you’re learning something.

Proverbs 4:20:22 says, My son, be attentive to my words…for they are life to those who find them…  The word “attend (Heb. qāšaḇ)” means to pay attention to, give some time to something. To attend to the Word of God is a lot more than just reading; it’s spending time in the word, meditating on it and giving it attention. The only way to know God is to spend time with Him. God meets us in His and through truth He reveals Himself through His Spirit.

It is vitally important for us to be in agreement with what God wants us to do because, as the writer of Proverbs says, these words are life! When you need an encouraging word, or you’re in a negative environment, it’s good to know that you can find life (healing, health and wholeness) in God’s Word.

What do I Study?

Truthfully, there’s really no wrong place to start because we are charged to study the entire Bible (Prov. 2:1-5). You can study anything that’s going to help you.

If desire to study a particular subject, such as “How to deal with anger or fear,” use a concordance and locate those words to see which scriptures talk about them. You can also use Bible Software like the one’s we talked about last week (Logos, Blue Letter Bible, Bible Hub, etc.)

When I first got married, I was concerned about loving my wife sufficiently and not just have a physical attraction or temporary infatuation. I decided to search the scripture and study the subject of love. I learned that it’s more than a warm, fuzzy feeling; it’s a decision you make every day to love people the way Jesus would love them. How you love them dictates how you treat them. You can’t mistreat someone that you love like Christ. By studying what the Bible says about love, I learned how to love. That’s when my life really began to changed and God began to prepare me for what was coming. Little did I know that the survival of my marriage was being forge if fire and God’s word was the hammer that I would need to create beautiful relationship.

Being able to apply what you study (and learn) to your life on any subject of love, is just what studying the Bible is designed to do.

Practical Steps to Study the Bible

Here are four steps you can take to begin digging into God’s Word now:

1. Purposely set aside time.  I spend an hour in the morning and two hours at night reading and studying. In the morning somewhere between 6:00 & 9:00 AM, I spend at least 1 to 1 1/2 hours reading the Bible. At night around 9:30 - 10:00 PM, I’ll spend 2 to 3 hours studying. I’m sure that my schedule probably doesn’t work for the most of you, so you’ll have to carve out a time that works for you. You may not be able to do every day, but make a commitment to a time frame that you can stick to. I do encourage you to do at least 2 days for no less than 1 hour per day. Set aside the time and I guarantee you’ll see the fruit of your labor.

* What day(s) of the week are you going to read and study the Bible? What time? For how long? If you don’t plan to study, you don’t plan to study.

1. Make preparation for Bible study.  Select a quit place that’s comfortable, but not relaxing. I define comfort as a place where you can sit and focus for a long period of time. Relaxing is a place that welcomes day dreaming or falling off to sleep. It’s beneficial to your focus if there are no unnecessary noises such as radio’s or televisions. However, some people focus better with low volume music in the background. Do what works for you ask long as it a good learning environment.
2. Have all your materials available. Here are some things that I suggest you have ready.

* A good Study Bible (Version: NRSV, ESV, NKJV, or ASV). If you have an eBible on your electronic device, that’s great.
* An Exhaustive Concordance (Exhaustive means it contains every word in the Bible)
* Bible Dictionary (i.e., Complete Word Study Dictionary, Holman’s Bible Dictionary, Vines Bible Dictionary)
* Note Book, Pen/Pencil, Highlighter and Sticky Notes
* And this may not seem like a study aid, but secure a beverage whether it be water, juice or soft drink. You will find it refreshing as you study.

1. Prepare your heart and mind.  Pray and ask God’s to forgive your sins and remove anything that might hinder you from hearing His voice as you study. Ask God for spiritual revelation that will bring greater understanding of His word and will for your life.

What is the best life that you can live? Living life as the best person God created you to be. This is possible when we make God’s word a top priority in our life. Commitment to study is a commitment to the Savior.

What is the meaning of the following verses?

The Assignment: Study and write the meaning of each ver

Proverb 3:1-10

EXAMPLE

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Forget (Sakah) A verb meaning to forget. It indicates that something has been lost to memory, or a period of time has softened the memory of it

Forget {Active Voice, Imperfect Tense, Qal Stem Mood} (The Qal stem can be divided into two main classes: verbs that represent action (fientive) and verbs that describe a state of being (stative).

Not (al) It is used consistently with the imperfect form of the verb to render a negative imperative or prohibition.

Law (Torah) A feminine noun meaning instruction, direction, law, Torah, the whole Law. In Israel, a father and mother were sources of instruction for life.

The father is instructing (my law) is son by commanding him (negative imperative - not) against negative actions (verb - forget) and allow memory to be lost or fade over time.