



THE KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT CENTER

Teaching the Word, Perfecting the Saints, Advancing the Kingdom of God

Bible Study: Knowing How to Study God's Word (Ephesians 4:11-16) (Hebrews 5:11-14)

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The most basic practices in reaching maturity in Christ are prayer and Bible study. In order to maximize our relationship with God in prayer we must study His Word, the Bible.

Why Study?

“All scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”
(2 Tim. 3:16, 17 NIV)

What are the practical steps to studying the Bible?

Step One Read the Bible Prayerfully (James 1:5)

In order to understand the Bible we must precede Bible study with prayer. All scripture is Godbreathed and we must consult the author, God, to fully understand them. Only the Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God (I Corinthians 2:10, 11). We have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).

Step Two Use a Modern Translation

Though the King James Version may be the most beautiful it may not be the most practical. Many of the words in the KJV do not mean the same thing they do now. Remember that the KJV was translated in the year 1611; it uses words like thus, thou, shew, withersoever, whatsoever, etc. Because of this, it is sometimes hard to read and/or understand.

However, we recommend that any serious Bible student learn how to use the KJV as his/her primary sword. The KJV does not change with every publication and its words have definitions rooted in the original English Language. The KJV is best complimented by the NKJV, NIV (1984), and AMP versions. These versions stay true to original manuscripts, use Modern English, and are not misleading. I also recommend staying away from The Living Bible (TLB) because it is sometimes misleading in its attempt to bring forth clarity. The NKJV, NIV (1984), and AMP should be used in conjunction with the King James Version. A Parallel Bible with these versions is also very useful.

NOTE: Also stay away from books used by other religions such as the “New World Translation” or the “Koran” for they are not Christ centered and do not acknowledge Jesus as both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).

Step Three Follow a Plan of Bible Study (Acts 17:10-12)

The Bereans were a people who “received the word with all readiness of mind.” In other words, they were eager to know what “thus sayeth the Lord.” In addition, their eagerness cultivated a great Bible study skill: searching the scriptures daily.

1) **Search the Word** (2 Timothy 2:15)

Study to show yourself approved. Simply reading the Scriptures is not studying them. It is a good idea to choose a subject such as love, trust, temptation, spiritual gifts, or salvation to study. It is also a good idea to study just one book of the Bible (i.e. John or Romans). The Bereans searched the Scriptures. This means they did not just read them or take the word of Paul and Silas, but sought after wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 4:7).

Henderson’s 7 Rules of Bible Study

1) Ask God for Wisdom and Revelation into His Word (Matthew 7:7-8)

2) Do not interpret the Bible. Allow the Word of God to interpret itself (2 Peter 1:20-21).

3) Take the Word of God literally when at all possible. God is the Word (John 1:1). Therefore, the Father is a master at speaking and writing. Do not assume that a scripture is symbolic or meant to be taken figuratively just because it is hard to understand or appears to be harsh, difficult or challenging when taken literally.

4) Do not add to the Scriptures. Be careful not to see something in the Scriptures that it does not actually say when you read them.

5) Read the Scriptures in **Context**. What is the total context of the scripture you are studying? (This includes who, what, when, where, why, and how? **You cannot isolate a text**; it must include the Scripture around it. Example: John 3:5).

6) Recognize **Vertical** and **Horizontal Truths**. A Vertical Truth is a promise or command of God that is only applicable for the way He deals with his people at that point in time; it is dispensational. For example, Deuteronomy. 14:1-21 is applicable only under the Law (see Mark 7:19, Acts 10:15, and Romans 14). A Horizontal Truth is a promise or command of God that is applicable at any time throughout Biblical History (Example: John 15:7 and Romans 8:28). A Horizontal Truth is applicable from Genesis to Revelation.

7) Read the Scriptures afresh every time you open the Bible, especially when you are reading a familiar passage of Scripture. Try to study the Word of God as if you have never read it before every time you open the Bible. Do not try to force the Scriptures to say what you want them to say. Allow God to give you a new revelation every time you read the Word. Wait until you have received a revealed Word of God while studying the Scriptures, then compare it to what you already know concerning the Word. Resist the temptation to impose what you already know about the Bible on familiar and unfamiliar Scriptures, alike.



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Use Biblical Reference Materials

- A) Cross Reference Scripture
- B) Use an Exhaustive Concordance
- C) Use a Bible dictionary in conjunction with a secular dictionary.
- D) There are also many good books, study helps, and computer programs for the Bible.

2) **Study the Word Daily** (Deuteronomy 17:18-20)

The Bible records the Bereans “searched the scriptures daily.” In order to grow spiritually your inner man must be fed daily just as your body is fed. You would not neglect feeding the physical man and neither should you neglect feeding the spirit man.

Bible study should coincide with your **ESTABLISHED HABIT OF PRAYER** (Daniel 6:10). Just as you eat two or three times a day so you should pray and study the Word at least two or three times a day (Matthew 4:4).

What to study? Choose a subject such as love, trust, temptation, or salvation to study. It is also a good idea to study just one book of the Bible. **DO NOT** study or read scripture at random! Ask God what you should study and be led by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

Step Four **Meditate on the Word (Psalm 1:1-3, Proverbs 6:20-23)**

One of the most important parts of Bible study is for the believer to meditate on God’s word. Meditation will help you memorize the Word and deposit it in your spirit man (Psalm 37:31, 119:11).

Step Five **Be Obedient to the Word (James 1:22)**

After we have done all these things we must be obedient to the Word. Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). We must receive the seed sown and bear fruit, some thirty, some sixty, some a hundredfold (Matthew 13:23 and John 15:7-8, 16).