**Daily Bible Study**

*Psalm 1, Josh. 1:8*

**INTRODUCTION:**

A critical part of any Christian’s spiritual growth is the habit of daily Bible study. This is because the Bible is unlike any other book on earth. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ book, the words of which are the very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. (2 Tim. 3:16) Just as God’s breath gave life to Adam in the garden of Eden, his breath has inspired the words in our Bible which give vitality to our spirit.

Even though a daily time in the Bible is critical to every Christian, most will struggle either to develop or to maintain this discipline. Some of the reasons for this are very likely because the Christian doesn’t realize how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it is or they are not sure how to go about studying the Bible in a meaningful way.

1. **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER**
	1. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. Psalm 1:1-3 – Like water to a tree
		2. 1 Peter 2:2 – Like milk to a newborn baby
	2. It cleans us up (by way of convicting us of sin)
		1. Psalm 119:9-11
		2. John 15:3; 17:17
		3. Ephesians 5:26
	3. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us in the right way (Psalm 119:105)
	4. It empowers us
		1. Joshua 1:8 – If Joshua would meditate day and night and follow the Word, he’d have prosperity and success in his battles.
		2. Ephesians 6:10-17 – It’s the sword in our spiritual battle.

How does the Word practically empower us?

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* 1. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we be in the Word.
		1. Joshua 1:8 – It wasn’t a recommendation, but a command.
		2. Colossians 3:16 – We are to let the word dwell in us richly (not poorly).

What is the difference between it dwelling richly vs. poorly? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + 1. John 8:31-32, 47 – Continuing in His Word is what disciples do.
1. **PRACTICAL ADVICE ON DEVELOPING THE DISCIPLINE OF DAILY BIBLE STUDY.**
	1. Recognize that Bible Study is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Definition: orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior; self-control)
		1. 2 Peter 1:5 – Implies that growth takes some diligence on our part
		2. Definition of diligence – eagerness, earnest carefulness

Why does this take so much discipline and diligence? Shouldn’t it come more naturally? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Practical How To’s
		1. Designate a time and a place (i.e. – living room from 7-7:30, etc.)
		2. Remove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of distractions will we need to guard from? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + 1. Pray first – for the Holy Spirit to illuminate your mind to the scripture
		2. Begin reading – anticipating God to speak to your heart.

***NOTE****: What does it mean for God to “speak to your heart?” This can confuse and even discourage some people. The voice of God isn’t to be thought of as some magical or mystical voice from the sky. It is simply when a certain portion of his Word seems to be highlighted in your heart as having application to you and your life.*

* + 1. Meditate on what the Holy Spirit emphasizes as meaningful:
			1. Stop, read it a few times over again, and think about it (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).
			2. Helpful questions to prod your meditation of a passage:
				1. What does this passage mean?

Consider the context – what has the overall chapter or story been about?

Invest in a Bible dictionary, look up the meaning of words you don’t understand (Strong’s).

Ask the Lord to help you understand the meaning.

* + - * 1. What difference should it make in my life?

Is there a command to follow?

A promise to cling to?

* + 1. Write your thoughts down in a journal.

How can journaling (writing down what the Lord speaks to you about) be a help in this process? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Don’t allow Bible reading to become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ duty.
		1. This isn’t to be a work; it shouldn’t be something on which your acceptance to God depends.
		2. It is simply communion with God (talking and listening like in any healthy relationship).

**MAIN POINT**: A Christian that rarely picks up the Bible is sure to be stunted in his or her growth. If you are to grow normally and naturally, you must allow yourself to receive the proper nourishment from the Bible.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Make a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or commitment to Christ that you are going to start reading and studying your Bible this week.
2. Think even now of a particular time and place that you could begin; set an “appointment.”
3. Attend church all three church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; approach sermons and lessons similarly.
	1. Ask God to show you his message to you.
	2. Plan to take notes to aid your attentiveness.
	3. As he speaks to your heart with his message, respond in prayer at the altar.