

Bible Reading

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15)

Introduction:

You might say that the Bible is the “user’s manual of life” we have all been searching for. Everything we need to know about God and living a life that pleases Him is found in its pages. It’s our **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**. Tragically, some of us go through life without so much as picking up this amazing book, whose words were inspired by God. Yet, success or failure in the Christian life is determined by how much of the Bible we get into our hearts and minds and how obedient we are to the principles and teachings found within it. Just as we need to continually breathe oxygen to survive, we need to regularly study the Bible to grow and flourish spiritually.

3 Benefits:

1. Studying the Bible is necessary for our spiritual growth.
The Bible performs four functions to help us mature spiritually (*II Timothy 3:16-17*).
2. Studying the Bible keeps us spiritually strong.
The more we get into this book and apply its teachings, the more we will be able to stand our ground in the storms and trials of life (*Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Peter 2:1-2*).
3. Studying the Bible helps us apply its truth to our lives.
We will notice positive changes in our lives as we apply what we read in Scripture (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

3 Key Questions:

1. What did it mean when it was written? (Exploration)
2. What does it mean today? (Exposition)
3. What does it mean to me? (Application)

The Bible: God’s Story in summary...

1. Creation – God displayed His sovereignty (*Ephesians 1:4*)
2. Curse – God revealed man’s sinfulness (*Ephesians 2:3*)
3. Calvary – God provided a sacrifice (*Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9*)
4. Calling – God equipped man for service (*Ephesians 2:6-7*)

Five levels of Bible intake – *Joshua 1:8*

1. Hearing God’s Word (*Luke 11:28*)
2. Reading God’s Word
3. Studying God’s Word (*2 Timothy 2:15; John 5:39*)
4. Memorizing God’s Word (*Psalms 119:9-11*)
5. Meditating on God’s Word (*Psalms 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148*)

Closing: *John 5:39* “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”