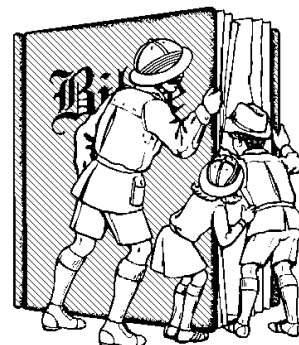


THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING **THE WORD OF GOD**



1. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE?

- A. The Bible is the Word of God to and for mankind.
(Psalm 19:7-9)
- B. The Bible is alive and active. (Hebrews 4:12)
- C. The Bible effectually works in those that believe.
(I Thessalonians 2:13)

2. WHAT ARE 5 THINGS THAT THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD WILL DO FOR US?

- A. The Bible convicts us of sin.
(Hebrews 4:12)
- B. The Bible helps us cleanse ourselves from the pollution of sin.
(Psalm 119:9-11)
- C. The Bible instructs us in what we are to do.
(Psalm 119:105)
- D. The Bible provides us with a word for victory over sin.
(Luke 4:1-13)
- E. The Bible makes our lives fruitful.
(Psalm 1:1-3)

3. WHAT IS A DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY?

The best way to study God's Word is to read it carefully with prayer and to meditate on it until it becomes a part of your daily living.

4. WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVOTIONAL READING AND STUDY OF THE BIBLE?

- A. Begin with prayer. (Psalm 119:18; John 16:13,15)
- B. Ask yourself the following questions as you read:
(All of these questions may not be answered in every passage.)
 - 1. What is the main subject of this passage?
 - 2. Who are the people included in this passage?
 - 3. What is the key verse of this passage?
 - 4. What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - 5. Is there any sin for me to confess and forsake in this passage?

6. Is there any command for me to obey in this passage?
7. Is there any promise for me to claim?
8. Is there any instruction for me to follow?
9. Is there any prayer that I should pray?

C. Memorize and meditate on passages of God's Word.

To meditate means "to reflect, to ponder, to consider, to dwell in thought." As you meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit will help you apply it to your life and its problems. It is good to meditate on Scripture every night before you go to sleep in order to allow your subconscious mind to review God's Word even as you sleep.

D. Obey the Word of God. **(James 1:22)**

5. **WHAT ARE 7 METHODS OF SYSTEMATIC BIBLE STUDY?**

A. Bible Study by Chapters

1. Find the chapter's main subject or subjects and give it a title.
2. Make a simple outline.
3. Ask the questions listed above.

B. Bible Study by Paragraphs
(Often called Analytical Bible Study)

1. Read the paragraph carefully for its main thought or subject.
2. Rewrite the text in your own words.
3. Make a simple outline.
4. Look up important words.

C. Bible Study by Verses

1. Study the individual verbs and nouns.
2. Study the personalities revealed.
3. Study the great ideas included.

D. Bible Study by Books

1. Read through the book to get the mood and general emphasis.
2. Reread the book many times, each time emphasizing a different question, such as:

What is the central theme?

How is the theme emphasized and developed in the book?

What does this book tell me about the author and his circumstances?

What does the book tell me about the people to whom it was written?

What are the main divisions of the book? etc.

E. Bible Study by Words

Trace the use of a word through the Old and New Testament.

F. Bible Study by Topics

Study the great topics or subjects in the Bible, such as, Bible promises, commands of the Lord, prayer, or Bible geography.

G. Bible Study through Biography

Study a Bible character by reading both direct and indirect references to him. This may be an entire book of the Bible or a smaller passage.