

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

That word *“inspiration”* in the original language is **theopneustos**, [teh-op'-nyoo-stos] and it means: *“breathed out of the nostrils of God.”* Literary wise, this Book is really a breath of fresh air! It's nourishment for your spiritual man just as natural food is for your physical man. It is pure, inerrant and infallible and we are to give heed to its every admonition with holy fear.

We don't judge the Bible, we let the Bible judge us. We don't read it per say, it in fact reads us! The natural man doesn't grasp the blessings in the Bible, because the Bible is God's love letter to the [born again] Christian. The Author doesn't yet live on the inside of the unregenerate person. You would do well to allow God to address your every need, as you daily pour over its sacred pages.

It is impossible to rightly govern without God and the Bible.

George Washington

STUDY THE BIBLE PRAYERFULLY

Learn to value the whole counsel of God more than food. Read the whole book and then do it again! There are balancing verses in there for the verses you are examining. The best commentary for the Bible is the Bible. **“I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food”** (Job 23:12). The Word of God is in fact spiritual food.

The Bible says we are to put on the garments of praise. Just as you clothe and feed your physical man, you must clothe and feed your spiritual man. When we mix worship with Bible study, we partake in a wonderful balance of strength. I love that song that says: *“Read your Bible, pray every day and you'll grow, GROW, GROW. Forget to read, forget to pray and you will SHRINK, Shrink, shrink.”* God doesn't want us to be spiritually lopsided.

Love flows best within the bounds of truth! Every church, every department of every church, every leader, every parent and every Christian should be full of love and full of the truth, full of the Spirit and full of the Word. The church you commit yourself to needs to excel in both worshipping the living Word and teaching the written Word! Jesus balanced His teaching with touch. During His earthly ministry, our Lord not only balanced the fruit of the Spirit with the gifts of the Spirit, He was also full of grace and truth (John 1:14). It is a beautiful thing when you see an authority figure with this balance. Some call it *love and discipline* or *courtesy and control*. But no matter what you call it, the followers of such a person will be very blessed and they'll love that balanced leader.

The Bible says...

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV).

It is good to take a portion of Scripture (a book of the Bible or topic) and thoroughly study it. In every case we need to let the context interpret the text, and remember, *where the Bible is silent—we need to remain silent!* That means don't add to, subtract from, or water down God's Message. Many things are touted today by alleged Bible preachers that just can't be substantiated in the Book. You are responsible to check it out in the Bible for yourself! It is so beneficial to prayerfully meditate on one part that really speaks to you—a passage that stands out, or over a portion that addresses one of your weaknesses directly. Meditating on the Word is edifying—it builds you up spiritually.

"His [the godly man's] delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His Law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

"Your Word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

In Ephesians 6:17, the Apostle Paul says, **"And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."** As you put on the full armor of God, Satan will still tempt you to disobey God's Word. And it's good to know that the Scriptures are not only an effective defensive weapon, they are the only offensive weapon you'll have to defeat the enemy (read Luke 4:1-14). Jesus Himself was tempted in three areas, (one of which, you more than likely will one day be tempted in), and what did He do? He replied with Scripture, "It is written", "It is written", "It is written."

Here's a crazy acrostic you can use to prayerfully question yourself, when personalizing a passage: I think everyone should have **SPACE PETS** help them apply God's Word.

As you read a portion ask yourself; Is There A(n):

- S - Sin to confess?**
- P - Promise to claim?**
- A - Attitude to change?**
- C - Command to obey?**
- E - Example to follow?**

- P - Prayer to pray?**
- E - Error to avoid?**
- T - Truth to believe?**
- S - Something to thank God for?**

Western Christians are so blessed but for the most part we are information rich and commitment poor. We are also Bible teaching rich, but application poor. On the other hand, Third World Christians tell me they are information poor, but commitment rich—they want to be doers of the Word. Studying the Bible must not become an end in itself. Some Christians go to prayer meetings or taking part in other Christian disciplines as an end in themselves. They do it for the feeling they get or they want to reach a new level of anointing so that people will think they are very spiritual. This is fleshly. We study with purpose – to help someone else find the Lord.

Practice what you preach, walk your talk & put feet to your faith!

In doing what Scripture says we are radically blessed. The Bible says, "**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves**" (James 1:22). You see, every disciple is a believer, but not every believer is a disciple. But every believer is called to be a disciple. This again is a Lordship issue.

The Book is a divine production; it is perfect, and is the last court of appeal – the judge which ends all strife. I would as soon dream of blaspheming my Maker as of questioning the infallibility of His Word.

–Charles Spurgeon

READ: PSALM 119:1-176, ROMANS 15:4, LUKE 11:28, JOHN 8:31, HEBREWS 10:17, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17, 1 PETER 2:2 & 2 PETER 1:4

This Book Will Keep You From Sin, And Sin Will Keep You From This Book!

Find a quiet place today to meditate on God's Word. Rumination is what meditation is all about. It's focused thinking on the Word. Like the cow chews it's cud seven times, regurgitating it again and again to get all the nourishment it can get out of it, so should we chew on the Word, literally ingesting the Scriptures into our inner man.

Now, worry is negative meditation—don't even go there. Why? What we think about, is what we often become. And don't forget Scripture memorization. Christian hostages of war who were later released, have recounted to us how their knowledge of God's Word was their most valued asset behind bars. In your life as well, nothing will be more extremely precious than those verses you've committed to memory. They are your protection against the many difficult ordeals of life.

To know Jesus well will largely depend on how well you know the Bible!

You Can Memorize Scripture

A. By Repeated Sequence-quoting Out Loud:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. THE TOPIC | 2. THE REFERENCE |
| 3. THE VERSE | 4. THE REFERENCE |

- A. The reference is normally more difficult to remember than the wording in the verse. That is why it should be repeated before and after the actual quoting of the verse. The reference is the content's address; it's like the handle on a suitcase enabling you to lift a complete portion from the Bible whenever needed.

- B. The real secret of Scripture memory is review, review, review. "Either use it or lose it." You can remember the Bible verses as you've memorized a telephone number. How did that happen? You dialed, Dialed, DIALED! Or remember how you memorized the code for the lock on your school locker? As your friends waited and waited, there you were still trying, but then you never forgot it for the whole school year. Let your own ears hear you repeat the Word over and over. Yes, that's how you can memorize—by review, Review, REVIEW!
- C. Quote the verse aloud. Pray over the verse, asking God to make the meaning clear, understandable and practically applicable for you. Memorize one phrase at a time, using the reference, adding phrase by phrase until the entire verse is committed to memory.

KEY BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS 1 John 1:9 NKJV

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness."

VICTORY THROUGH THE WORD Psalm 119:9-11 NKJV

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

ANOTHER ONE Vs. 165 NKJV

"Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble."

FISHERS OF MEN Matthew 4:19 NKJV

"And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

APPLYING HIS WORD Joshua 1:8 NKJV

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

PROMISE OF SALVATION John 3:16 NKJV

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER 1 John 5:14,15 NKJV

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE John 14:21 NKJV

"He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

HOPE ALWAYS SPRINGS FROM GOD'S WORD...

AFFLICTIONS

Psalm 119:67,71,75; 34:19

ANXIETY

Philippians 4:6,7; 1 Peter 5:7

ASSURANCE

John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-13

PHYSICAL HEALING

Psalm 103:3; 1 Peter 2:24

COMFORT

Psalm 23; Hebrews 13:5,6

DISCOURAGEMENT

Galatians 6:9; Isaiah 41:10

EMPTINESS

Psalm 107:8,9; 37:3,5

GUILT

Romans 8:1; Isaiah 1:18

JUDGEMENT

Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27

LONELINESS

Hebrews 13:5,6; Psalm 16:11

SUFFERING

Hebrews 12:6-11; 1 Peter 1:6,7; 2:19-23; 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

TEMPTATIONS

Matthew 26:41; James 1:13,14

VICTORY

Philippians 4:13; 1 John 4:4; 1 Corinthians 10:13

WORRY

Philippians 4:19; Romans 4:20,21; 1 John 5:14,15

PROMISES FROM GOD TO YOU:

GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

Isaiah 54:10

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

1 Peter 3:12

GOD CARES FOR US

2 Corinthians 9:8

WE ARE BLESSED IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3

GOD PROMISES PEACE

John 14:27

GOD PROMISES JOY

John 15:10-11

GOD PROMISES REST

Matthew 11:28

GOD IS WITH US

Deuteronomy 31:8

GOD GIVES WISDOM

James 1:5

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Romans 8:28

That is a good start! Be encouraged to memorize some more verses and watch how the Holy Spirit brings them back to your remembrance at the right time and place.