

How To Enjoy the Bible

Hebrews 4:12-13

12. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Bible is God's primary agent for transforming our new lives in Christ. The Word of God is powerful in its effect on us. The more we expose ourselves to the Word the more we become like Christ. It is like getting a sun tan. The more you are in the sun the better the tan. The more you read God's word the more you will grow in faith. Even one verse each day can make a tremendous difference in you.

The Bible – *It is Living and Active*

Like vitamins, to be of any value it must be used long term. That is, it must be read daily. It gradually transforms our lives.

1. Lamp Unto my Feet - Psalm
2. Warns God's Servants
3. Meditates day and night
4. Hid in my heart
5. Desire as milk to grow by it
6. Let it dwell in you richly
7. It washes me
8. It makes me successful
9. It leads me
10. It is to be taught, talked, and thought about

Joshua 1:8

Deut 17:19

Psalm 1

Psalm 19

Psalm 119:9

Psalm 119:11

Psalm 119:105

Deut 6:6-9

I Peter 2:2

Hebrews 4:12

Eph 5:19

Eph 5:26

How To Read For All It's Worth

A good way to get the most out of what you read is to look for God's hidden treasures in his love letter to you. Here is how.

P = Look for a promise to claim.

E = Look for an example to follow.

P = Look for something to pray about.

S = Look for a sin to avoid.

I = Look for an instruction or command to follow.

You won't find all of these in every passage you read but usually you will be able to find a couple of them.

Remember the Nine-Minute Devotional Plan

Here is a simple pattern for daily prayer in a 9 minutes.

- 3 Minutes - Ponder His Word
- 3 Minutes - Praise His Worth
- 3 Minutes - Petition His Will

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. – Joshua 1:8

A Wonderful Thing. (W.T.)

Look for a W.T. every day and carry it with you in your heart. What is a W.T.? It is a wonderful promise, truth or teaching you find in your devotional reading each day. Try to remember it. Meditate on it. Think it over and over. Carry it on a 3x5 card or business card. Tell someone about it. Share it.

How to Get Started

Forty Days of Devotion

Habits take time to develop. Usually a thing done consistently for 40 days, or about 6 weeks, will result in new patterns of behavior - thus a new life-discipline is born. If you are not consistent in reading your Bible every day then try this plan for six weeks.

| Great Psalms | Great Stories |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Psalm 12. Psalm 233. Psalm 274. Psalm 465. Psalm 516. Psalm 847. Psalm 868. Psalm 1009. Psalm 10310. Psalm 139 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Genesis 12. Genesis 33. Genesis 64. Genesis 195. Exodus 206. I Kings 177. II Kings 28. II Kings 49. Daniel 310. Daniel 6 |
| Great Truths | Great Comfort |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. John 142. Ephesians 13. Hebrews 14. Revelation 15. Gal 5:19-256. Philippians 27. I Thess 4:13-188. I Timothy 6:6-129. Romans 810. James 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Isaiah 40:21-312. Isaiah 433. Isaiah 44:1-3, 21-244. Isaiah 51:11-165. Isaiah 536. Isaiah 547. Isaiah 558. Isaiah 59:16-219. Isaiah 6110. Isaiah 64 |

From there take little books of the Bible and read a chapter a day. Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, James, I Peter, II Peter, and I John or Proverbs are good places to start.

What The Bible Says About Itself

Joshua 1:8

8. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Deut 6:6-9

6. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

7. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

8. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

9. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deut 17:19

18. When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.

19. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

Psalms 1

1. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalms 19

7. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

10. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

11. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:9

9. How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.\

Psalm 119:11

11. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:105

105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

I Peter 2:2

2. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3. now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Hebrews 4:12

12. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Eph 5:19

19. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

20. always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 5:26

just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

26. to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,