
Why Study the Bible?

With the hectic lifestyles most of us live, too many Christians do not give the study of the Word of God the place it should have in our daily lives. The vast majority of Church attendees only open up their bibles once a week at Church. Some never do because the readings are printed off or put up on a screen! After church, they do not revisit the scriptures or open their Bibles until the following Sunday.

Why should we study the Scriptures? Why is it so important to not only read and study the Word of God but to meditate on it and get a revelation of its meaning?

1. God placed us on the earth at this time for a purpose. Each of us has a personal purpose that ties into the plan of God for this time and season. We cannot fulfill that purpose unless we know the word of God and be able to apply it effectively to our own lives as well as teach it to others so they can be nurtured also. 2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP) *“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”* **Psalm 119:73(NKJV)** *Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.*

2. In this life, we all desire healing, health, prosperity and happiness for ourselves as well as for our loved ones. These things will not be required in the afterlife. The Bible tells us exactly how to appropriate these things now, since they will not be needed in the afterlife! We must know the scriptures and be able to apply them accurately to our situation.

Psalm 103:2-5 (AMP) says : *Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul, and forget not [one of] all His benefits--³Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your diseases, ⁴Who redeems your life from the pit and corruption, Who beautifies, dignifies, and crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercy; ⁵Who satisfies your mouth [your necessity and desire at your personal age and situation] with good so that your youth, renewed, is like the eagle's [strong, overcoming, soaring]!* How can we appropriate a long, healthy life when we do not know how to appropriate this scripture as well as others that declare what God has already provided for us? In fact many do not even realize the extent of the good life that has already been bought and paid for by Christ Jesus because they have not studied the Bible! It is like being left a fortune by someone and never claiming it because we are too busy, unbelieving or indifferent to even bother to even open the envelope! **Psalm 119:144** *The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.*

3. Error occurs when we do not have a sound knowledge of the scriptures. Matthew 22:29 (CEV) *Jesus answered: You are completely wrong! You don't know what the Scriptures teach. And you don't know anything about the power of God.* Notice that Jesus makes reference here to two things that contribute to our avoiding error- knowing what the scriptures teach and the power of God. It is the power of God (the Holy Spirit) that brings revelation to the Word of God that we know. In John 14:26 (NKJV) Jesus promises *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”* The power of God is also the Gospel or Good News. Within the pages of the Bible

there is Good News that is the power of God that brings about salvation. (Salvation means not only redemption but true prosperity).

4. We must believe the scriptures, we must read them, and in reading them be willing to throw away all our own ideas. Jesus dealt with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in this regard. Confusion had gripped their minds regarding all that had happened in Jerusalem. They knew the scriptures, but did not understand and could not relate them to the events that had occurred. Before explaining, Jesus identifies why in Luke 24:25-27(AMP) *“And [Jesus] said to them, O foolish ones [sluggish in mind, dull of perception] and slow of heart to believe (adhere to and trust in and rely on) everything that the prophets have spoken!”* **Psalm 119:130** *The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.*
Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God? He is a God of integrity therefore we can trust what He says. We can also accept the benefits of His promise of abundant life. We can believe that all the blessings of the righteous are ours because we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
5. As we read and study the Word of God our faith will increase steadily. Paul says in Romans 1:17(AMP) :⁴⁷*For in the Gospel a righteousness which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed through the way of faith that arouses to more faith]. As it is written, The man who through faith is just and upright shall live and shall live by faith.* (See also Romans 10:11-18) 1 Peter 2:2 (AMP) says : *“Like newborn babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation,”* Provided he/she is properly nourished physically a baby will grow from stage to stage into healthy, strong adulthood; so too it is in the spirit. As we feed on the Word of God we will grow into strong spiritual adults. However, Jesus says in Matthew 13:9-17 that there are just some people who simply do not want to understand the Word of God. The parable of the sower describes these hearts as “stony ground”. Others who are hungry for the Word of God will seek it all and their fruit will be exceptional. (Matthew 13:1-23)
6. If we do not study the scriptures, we become victims of those who twist the Word of God to support their false doctrines and lifestyles. For example, some people believe that because we are justified by faith, they can sin deliberately and repeatedly and keep asking God to forgive us. They believe that by doing so, it gives God opportunity to showcase His grace! This is not so. This teaching distorts the Word of God. Such a lifestyle will inevitably lead the individual down a path of destruction. (Romans 3:5-8; 6:1). **Psalm 119:104** *Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*

Proverbs 4:3-9 (The Message) *When I was a boy at my father's knee,
the pride and joy of my mother,
He would sit me down and drill me:
“Take this to heart. Do what I tell you—live!
Sell everything and buy Wisdom! Forage for Understanding!
Don't forget one word! Don't deviate an inch!
Never walk away from Wisdom—she guards your life;
love her—she keeps her eye on you.
Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom!
Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding!
Throw your arms around her—believe me, you won't regret it;
never let her go—she'll make your life glorious.*

*She'll garland your life with grace,
she'll festoon your days with beauty."*

Next week we will examine reasons why the Bible is difficult for some individuals to understand!