

Do you have a DDJ this morning? - *If NOT, we'll get you one*

BRUCE GOOCH TESTIMONY

This is Msg #3 in our Alone with God Series *(follows our DDJ)*

we began with ***“Get Alone with God”***
& then ***“Meditating on God's Word”***

Today we look - at **APPLYING God's Word**

Last week we said:

Meditating on God's Word is - *marinating, mulling over, reflecting,*
& *dwelling on the Scriptures, - resulting in an engagement with*
God that will ultimately Transform your life

THAT is what we **NEED**

We **NEED** to learn to **ENGAGE with God – IN His Word**
Until our lives are **Transformed**

We NEED to be Supernaturally Transformed
By God – Thru His Word
In Genuine Relationship with Jesus
Empowered by The Holy Spirit
& For HIS Glory

& the **most powerful place** for this to begin
Is - **Alone with God**

So - **Let's Pray** - & we'll look at **APPLYING God's Word**

We talked last week about the need to keep
our Time Alone With God - IN-LINE with →
the correct “Big Picture Meaning” of the Scripture we’re looking at
(thereby – *staying OFF ‘Crazy Interpretation Rd’*)

& I gave you my Favorite Quick Resource
to make sure YOUR thoughts are in the Same NEIGHBORHOOD
as the Correct Meaning of the Text

[video] - My top recommendation for doing that is
With The Word, By Warren Wiersbe (*great, simple, easy to use*)

& For a little more background on each book of the Bible - To help
keep your Engagement with God’s Word on The Right Track

[video] - I also Recommend “The Essential Bible Companion”
By John Walton & Mark Strauss

WHY is this so important??

Because the Bible MEANS what it MEANS
& it CANNOT MEAN – what it DOES NOT MEAN

& if we are going to MEDITATE on What the Bible MEANS
& then APPLY to our lives - What the Bible MEANS

Then we probably need a quick Resource – to make sure
we’re thinking along the Same Lines – as what the Bible MEANS

We want to RECEIVE– What the Bible Actually MEANS
& APPLY THAT to our Lives - In a Transforming Way

So – Let's LEARN – What it MEANS
to APPLY God's Word to our Lives

WEBSTER'S tells us - The Word APPLY means:
To put to use, especially for some practical purpose

Isn't THAT exactly what we NEED to DO?

We NEED to Put Gods Word to USE in our lives,
Especially for some practical purpose

Lst wk - we introduced our Foundational Scripture for the series
Rom 12:2 – Let's turn back there

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

This entire process is - ALLOWING God to Transform us
By changing the way we think

& (as Rom 12:2 says) THEN - - (THEN !)
Then we will learn to know God's will for us

That line - "Then we will learn to know God's will for us"
IS US MOVING – From MEDITATION – to APPLICATION

AS you **learn** to **MARINATE** in **God's Word** –
as you **mull over, reflect, & dwell on the Scriptures**

The **Holy Spirit** will **IMPRESS** on You

WHAT YOU - Personally & Specifically - NEED to Hear
In YOUR Life - At That Moment

& IF it **is** the **Holy Spirit**
then it will be **IN-LINE** with **God's Word**

If you will **LET Him** - The **Holy Spirit** will
Personally & Specifically APPLY that **scripture** to **your life**

As the **Definition of APPLY** says

The Holy Spirit will **put that scripture to USE** (In Your Life)
especially for some practical purpose

APPLICATION is **how** the **Holy Spirit - Makes** the
Living **Word of God** – **COLLIDE** with Your **Daily Life**

APPLICATION is where the **Word of God**
& **the NEED - YOU have** in your life **today**
MEET – HEAD ON

& it is the **Holy Spirit's Role** in your **life**
that **CAUSES** that to **happen**

& this **APPLICATION Flows Naturally**
out of a **correct MEDITATION** on **God's Word**

In your time "Alone With God" –
While you are **"Engaging God's Word"**
While you are **Meditating** on **The Word**

(**if** you are **Ready** & **Listening**) – **I promise you**

The **Holy Spirit** will **begin**
to APPLY **God's Word** to your life

It's **the Holy Spirit** Who **SPEAKS** to us - **IN** **God's Word**
It's **the Holy Spirit** Who **CONVICTS** us - **WITH** **God's Word**
It's **the Holy Spirit** Who **TRANSFORMS** us - **THRU** **God's Word**

He Will IMPRESS on us
the **Right APPLICATION** of God's **Word**
FOR Our lives - & **FOR this Moment** in our Lives

& so - **In order** to **Rightly Apply God's Word** to **our life**
we **must have** a **"Working Relationship"** with **the Holy Spirit**

in **other words**, we **must have**
a **Relationship with** the **Holy Spirit** – **that WORKS!**

The Bible is **clear** – **If you belong** to **Jesus** Christ **today**
BY putting your **complete Faith** in Him as Your **Savior** & **Lord**

Then you HAVE the **Holy Spirit** - **within you**

But – You **still MUST Develop** - A Real **"Working Relationship"**
with the **Holy Spirit** → →

Because it is our **Ability** to **LISTEN** to, & to **HEED** the **Holy Spirit**
WHILE we are **Meditating on Gods Word**

That **LEADS** us to the **Personal & Specific APPLICATION**
that **God has** for us – **IN His Word**

Jesus said in - John 14:15–16 (NLT)

15 “If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

The Two words “**Another Advocate**” is a **name** for the **Holy Spirit**
Gk = *Allos Parakletos*

ALLOS = *One of the same Kind & Quality,*
PARAKLETOS = *Called alongside to help*

The Holy Spirit - is a **Co-Equal Member** of the **Godhead**
He is GOD – in the **Person of the Holy Spirit**

& The Holy Spirit - is *One of the same Kind & Quality (as God)*

Who is *Called Alongside*

to **be** our **HELPER**, our **ADVOCATE**, & our **COMFORTER**

The Holy Spirit - is “**Called Alongside us**”
to **EMPOWER US** to be **Transformed by God**

& The Holy Spirit - is “**Called Alongside us**”
to **LEAD US** into **ALL of Gods Truth**

In the **very next vs** (after **the 2** we **just** read) → → →

NOTICE the **very first attribute** listed for **the Holy Spirit**

John 14:17 – Next Vs - (NLT)

17 He (The one called alongside to help) ***is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth . . .***

It is the **Holy Spirit's ROLE** – to ***LEAD us into ALL Truth***

God's Word is **TRUTH**

Whether we ever **APPLY it** to our **lives** or **NOT**

But the **Role of the Holy Spirit**

Is to **LEAD US** into **APPLYING that truth** – to **our own Lives!**

In John 16:13 Jesus says (NLT)

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth . .

The Holy Spirit is the **"Spirit of Truth"**

& **he will GUIDE YOU** – **into** the **Living Truth** of **God's Word**

That **he KNOWS** – **Needs** to **be APPLIED**

to **YOUR Life - TODAY**

Our **Life in Christ** – is a **life** of **Supernatural Transformation**

This is **NOT** a **Man-Made plan** of **SELF-IMPROVEMENT**

This is the **Almighty God - of All Creation** saying

I WILL MEET YOU – **Purposefully** & **Specifically**

I WILL TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE - **Supernaturally**

But – For that to Happen –
We've Got to LEARN - to MEET GOD - IN HIS WORD →

In an Environment where

the Holy Spirit can APPLY The Word – To our Lives
Where He can SPEAK to us - & CONVICT us
& Where he can Ultimately TRANSFORM our lives

Here's something that MAYBE we don't HEAR ENOUGH of

God has GIVEN us a RELATIONSHIP-BASED PATH
In order for us - to Be Transformed

He's given us the Ability
to have a VERY REAL Relationship with Jesus Christ

& Because of that Real Relationship with Jesus Christ

We have ACCESS - to the POWER & the GUIDANCE
of the Holy Spirit

& it is WITHIN that Relationship with Jesus Christ →

That we are Changed More and More into HIS Image
BY the Lord who is the Spirit (as 2 Cor 3:18 says)

But . . . for ANY of that to happen

We have got to learn how to ALLOW the Holy Spirit
to APPLY God's Word - to very specific areas of our lives

So – WHAT does Application LOOK LIKE – in the Scripture ??

Well – Here’s a Great example of APPLICATION

That you can study later

In Luke Ch 10 an EXPERT in interpreting the Law of Moses
challenges Jesus (*turn there to mark it*)

& after Jesus gives him a direct answer

we read in - Luke 10:29 (NLT)

*29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus,
“And who is my neighbor?”*

& in response to this question – Jesus tells a Parable

& at the end of the Parable (in Luke 10:37-a)

Jesus confirms that this expert in Religious Law
understands the correct meaning of the Parable

& then we read in - Luke 10:37(b) (ESV)

37 . . . And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

NLT says – Do the Same – but more LIT it is - Do Likewise

The words translated “DO LIKEWISE” Mean

To ACT in a Similar Manner

So Jesus says to this “Religious Big-Shot”

Listen closely to my Teaching

Understand the Truth I’m giving you

Then APPLY that Truth to Your LIFE - (GO, & DO Likewise)

The other thing Clearly Seen in this Teaching in Luke Ch 10

Is that - MEDITATION - - LEADS to APPLICATION
& APPLICATION - - LEADS to RESPONSE

& that is the Process of our Daily Devotion Journal
(Meditation – Application – Response)

In MEDITATION - The Holy Spirit
IMPRESSES on you certain truths in the Scripture

Then APPLICATION is Your INWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
of the Truths the Holy Spirit is IMPRESSING on you

& Then RESPONSE is Your OUTWARD ACTION
that comes From your Inward Acknowledgement of those truths

Once again;

APPLICATION is the INWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of what the
Holy Spirit is specifically Pointing out to you – that is IN LINE with
the Big-Picture meaning of the text

RESPONSE is the OUTWARD ACTION that you take as a Result of
that INWARD Acknowledgement of what God is addressing in my
life – thru this scripture - today

& Remember - We must not Confuse APPLICATION
with INTERPRETATION

The Bible MEANS what it MEANS – & With MOST Scripture
there is ONLY ONE General (Big Picture) meaning → →

BUT – there can **be a DOZEN Applications**
of that **ONE** ‘Big Picture’ **Meaning**

We **DO NOT** get to **choose** a **PERSONAL MEANING**
But we **MUST Choose** – A **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

& - **it is the Holy Spirit** who **brings** that **Personal Application** to us

BUT . . . The Holy Spirit can **ONLY BRING**
This **Personal Application** - - **IF** we have **“Ears to Hear”**

16 TIMES in the **N.T.** – (in the **NLT**) – We **read the words**
“He who has Ears to Hear”

The **AMPLIFIED Bible** does a **fabulous** job at **“AMPLIFYING”**
What the **Phrase** **“He who has Ears to Hear”** - **MEANS**

Watch closely - Matthew 11:15 (AMP)

15 He who has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing.

Tell me – are you **LISTENING**
To what **God is saying** to you – **In His Word?**

Are you **genuinely** ‘**Considering** it’

Do you have a **REAL Desire** to ‘**Perceive**’ & ‘**Comprehend**’
What the **Holy Spirit** is **Impressing on you** in His Word

Because THAT is what **APPLYING God’s Word** means
& **THAT** is what ‘**having ears to hear**’ means

In the Bible – “Having Ears to Hear”

does NOT refer to the Physiological Response
of our Ear-Drum & Cochlea nerve sending signals to our brain

Having Ears to HEAR means

having a Sincere DESIRE and a WILLINGNESS →

to LISTEN, & to CONSIDER, & PERCEIVE, & COMPREHEND
what the Spirit is saying – In the Living Word of God

APPLYING God’s Word is the AH-HAH Moment

the moment the Light goes on

The moment we say – I HEAR you Lord –

I perceive & I comprehend what you are saying to me

in Your Word - & by your Holy Spirit

& when THAT becomes a Regular occurrence in your life
THAT is when your life begins to be TRANSFORMED !!

& One More thing – about having “Ears to Hear”

Our ABILITY to HEAR

what the Spirit is saying to us - in the Word

Is IMPACTED – by the Condition

of our Overall Spiritual Life with the Lord

Paul says to the Believer’s - in 1 Corinthians 3:1–3 (NLT)

1 Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people (Lit: Spiritually Mature). I had to

talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ.

2 I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, 3 for you are still controlled by your sinful nature . . .

**REMEMBER - Our ability - to Truly HEAR
what God is saying to us in His Word**

is **Directly Impacted** - by the **Overall Condition**
of our **Spiritual Life** with **the Lord**

So – Can we review the Daily Devotion Journal again?

This one is NOT mine

This one is **Bruce Gooch's** (Who gave his testimony)

[VIDEO: 01-Bruce Gooch DDJ] Bruce was looking at **1Thes 2:4**

[READ & REVIEW HIS MEDITATION]

& **THEN** - **HERE** is **How Bruce**
APPLIED this Scripture to his life

[VIDEO: 02-Bruce Gooch DDJ]

[READ & REVIEW HIS MEDITATION]

Applying Scripture – is where **God's Word** goes
from **INFORMATIONAL** – to **PERSONAL**

That **ONGOING RELATIONSHIP** with **Jesus Christ**
That our **Salvation** is “**Encompassed**” In

Is BASED on us ENGAGING with God's Word
MEDITATING on it
APPLYING it
RESPONDING to it

APPLICATION – is **where** it **starts** to get “**REAL**”

Next Week – We'll look at **RESPONDING**
Which is **where** your life – Actually **begins to CHANGE**

Let's Pray