

DAYS
6-12
OF THE  40 DAY
CHALLENGE

WEEK OF

BEING



"COME TO ME, ALL WHO ARE
WEARY AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

MATTHEW 11:28

DAY 6

ABIDE IN MY WORD
JOHN 8:31

What if I told you God could speak to you at any moment? Sometimes people say, "I just keep waiting to hear God's voice, and I'm getting nothing." **If there was a way to hear from God right now, would you do it?** Of course you would! You would probably do whatever it takes to hear directly from God! Well, the Bible is the book that contains God's words. The Bible is the place where God reveals Himself to you. Yet often the same people who claim to love God so much and who say they want to hear from Him often steer clear of reading the Bible. As a result, they miss out on opportunities to hear from God.

LifeWay Research surveyed more than 2,900 Protestant churchgoers and found that while 90 percent "desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do," only 19 percent personally read the Bible every day.¹² 19 percent. That's pathetic.

Maybe you are a part of the 19 percent who reads the Bible, and if you are, I want to encourage you to keep reading as often as you can. But if the numbers are accurate, that means more than four out of every five people who are going through this Challenge don't regularly read the Bible. How can we truly expect to make an impact for Jesus Christ if we don't even invest some time into reading what He said and growing in our knowledge of who He is?

Listen, I'm not perfect. There are days I fail. My job as a pastor certainly helps keep me in the Bible on a regular basis, but that doesn't mean I'm always learning and growing from God's Word. So this is something even I struggle with at times.

The full quote from Jesus is found in John 8:31-32: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The word "abide" can mean to dwell or reside. Jesus essentially tells us to live in His Word. He wants us to make the Bible, His words, a part of our life. We are to read, mark, and inwardly digest them. They are to become such a part of us that we can't imagine what our lives were like before we knew the Bible. The Word of God is supposed to go with us wherever we go!

In fact, in the Old Testament, God actually told Ezekiel to eat the Scripture. Ezekiel 3:3 says, "'Feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.' Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey." God wanted Ezekiel to consume these words so these words would literally take life inside of him. The same is true of us today. God wants us to be reading and studying the Bible so much that the Bible becomes a part of us. His words have the power to actually change us and move us. That's what this Challenge is all about: bringing Jesus' words to life today!

The Bible is the one true story of life. The Bible reveals the one true God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It's in the words of the Holy Bible that we see that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we are offered grace, forgiveness, freedom, and new life! Because of this

new life, we can't help but want to make a difference and point people to know more about our amazing God. And where do we point them to find out more about God? To the Bible!

There is perhaps no greater spiritual discipline than reading God's Word, because whenever you open its pages, it always accomplishes something. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Every time you spend time in Scripture, you are being trained, corrected, and equipped. You are always hearing from God!

We'll be doing a lot of good works in this Challenge. The Word of God will prepare us for these good works, because, after all, our doing flows out of our being with Christ.



THE BIBLE
IS THE ONE
TRUE STORY
OF LIFE.



#REDLETTERCHALLENGE

In our Bible reading for today, God calls Ezekiel to be a prophet and speak difficult but true words to the nation of Israel. God is giving the words to Ezekiel to proclaim to the Israelites. Like Ezekiel, we are called to consume God's Word and then share those words and the Gospel message with the rest of the world.

EZEKIEL 2:7-3:4

7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

9 Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, 10 which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

3:1 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

4 He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.



OPEN THE BIBLE TODAY AND HEAR FROM GOD.

If you haven't ever read the Bible, I would recommend starting in the book of John. John is the 4th book of the New Testament and tells the story of Jesus in a way that helps people understand who He is.

This Challenge today, is a great discipline to practice every day for the rest of the Challenge and thereafter. If you are wondering where to start or how to read the Bible effectively, a great place to start is by downloading the YouVersion Bible App or searching online for a daily Bible reading plan.

6/40