

Nuggets of Truth from James 1

Ancient Method of Reading the Word

An ancient method of reading the Scriptures (Lectio Divina) was brought to my attention by Pastor Adam Ost at Men's Prayer Breakfast. We as men walked through a passage of scripture together using this method and it led us to a depth of discovering truth that was Spirit inspired and very meaningful.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (known for his stance against the Nazi's) describes so well the transformative effect of this kind of engagement with Scripture: "The time of meditation [on Scripture] does not let us down into the void and abyss of loneliness; it lets us be alone with the Word. And in so doing it gives us solid ground on which to stand and clear directions as to the steps we must take....In our meditation we ponder the chosen text on the strength of the promise that it has something utterly personal to say to us for this day and for our Christian life, that it is not only God's Word for the Church, but also God's Word for us individually. We expose ourselves to the specific word until it addresses us personally....We read God's Word as God's Word for us."

I have provided different sections of reading from James chapter 1 which you can use this method of reading the Word

- this week do the sections of readings whenever it fits in to do so
- You may even want to try doing this together with a group of family members or friends as we did in men's prayer breakfast – kids/teens who can read can also do this

First, take some time in silence (a few minutes) to quiet your heart in prayer and invite God to speak.

Turning your attention to your Heavenly Father who is worthy of all praise - submitting to His will in your life through His Word – opening the depths of your understanding in alignment with the Spirit of truth whom Jesus gave us to guide us into all truth

John 16:12-14 (NIV11)

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

Praying in the Spirit is a great way to open your understanding to the Spirit of truth

As you are in alignment with the Spirit of truth, read out loud very slowly the chosen passage four times with time to reflect following each reading. The four readings are: receiving, reflecting, responding, and resting.

Follow along as I guide you through an example of how this method of reading the Word works (on back side)

Nuggets of Truth from James 1

Ancient Method of Reading the Word

First, take some time in silence (a few minutes) to quiet your heart in prayer and invite God to speak.

As we are in alignment with the Spirit of truth, read out loud very slowly the chosen passage four times with time to reflect following each reading. (I will read it for our example)

First reading (receiving): What word or phrase touches you?

James 1:12 (NIV11)

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Second reading (reflecting): What in your life is touched by this word or phrase?

Third reading (responding): What is God inviting you to be or do through this word or phrase?

Fourth reading (resting): Take time in silence to rest in God's ability to bring about whatever he invited you to be or do.

Continue this method of reading the Word this week using these sections from James 1

James 1:2-8

James 1:9-12

James 1:13-18

James 1:19-25

James 1:26-27