

Strengthening Faith, Part 3: God's Word

Nehemiah 8:1-8, ESV

Pastor Brian Uyeda, June 20 & 21, 2026

Question: How do we build a deeper relationship with God through His Word?

⁸ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. - Nehemiah 8:1

³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. - Nehemiah 8:3

1. We feed our soul by _____ God's word. (Nehemiah 8:3)

⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" – Luke 4:4

Spiritual growth comes from feeding on God's truth.

Live it out!

Q: How often do I give focused attention to hearing God's word? If I have never listened to the bible, what can I do today to find an audio bible I can listen to?

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. - Nehemiah 8:5

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. - Nehemiah 8:7

2. We feed our soul through _____ and understanding God's word. (Nehemiah 8:5, 7)

Read a bible that you enjoy:

- Word-for-word = Values accuracy of direct translation from original language to English. Ex: NASB, ESV, KJV, NKJV.
- Thought-for-thought = Values understanding of original intent / meaning from original language into English. Ex: NIV, NLT.
- Paraphrase = Written in casual, contemporary language, not a true translation, but captures essence with liberty by the translator(s). Ex: MSG, TLB.

Live it out!

Q: If I don't read the Bible daily, I can commit to reading the Proverb chapter that relates to the day I am in. (Ex. June 20, read Proverbs 20, June 21, Read Proverbs 21, etc.)

⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. - Nehemiah 8:8

3. We protect our soul by _____ all of God's word. (Nehemiah 8:8)

Having familiarity of ALL of the books of the bible equip us: Grow closer to God (James 4:8), Understand Him better (John 17:3), Discern truth from lies (1 John 4:1), Fight spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:17), Test if something is from God's word (Acts 17:11), Determine if a church is preaching God's word (Galatians 1:8); Better understand difficult passages (Proverbs 2:6)

Simple 1 Year Bible Reading Plan = 6 days a week, read: 3 Chapter in Old Testament, 1 Chapter in New Testament; Take 1 day off per week of no reading.

Live it out!

Q: Will I commit to reading the entire bible in 1 year? If I am serious, who will be my accountability partner, someone to encourage me along the journey?