

HOW TO GROW MORE IN 2024

New Year's Eve Online Message

December 31, 2023

Pastor Brian

"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness." (1 Peter 2:2–3, NLT)

How to Be Transformed by God's Word

1. I must ACCEPT the Bible as my authority.

"Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You ACCEPTED what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NLT)

Unreliable "Authorities"

- CULTURE.
"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong." (Exodus 23:2a, NIV)
- REASON.
"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 16:25, NIV84)
- EMOTION.
"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" (Jeremiah 17:9, NLT)

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone." (2 Timothy 3:16–17, The Living Bible)

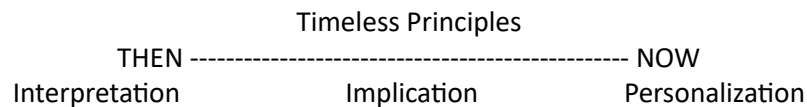
2. I must ASSIMILATE its truths.

5 Ways to Get God's Word into My Heart

- 1) By HEARING God's word.
"So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them." (Luke 8:18, NLT)

- 2) By **READING** God's word.
"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." (Revelation 1:3, NIV)
- 3) By **STUDYING** God's word.
"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (Joshua 1:8, NLT)
- 4) By **MEMORIZING** God's word.
"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11, NLT)
- 5) By **MEDITATING** on God's word.
"In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, was meditating on the Scriptures that gave, according to the Word of GOD to the prophet Jeremiah, the number of years that Jerusalem had to lie in ruins, namely, seventy." (Daniel 9:2, MSG)

"The Reflection Bridge"



3. I must APPLY its principles.

"Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them." (John 13:17, NLT)

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22, NLT)

ACTION STEPS

2nd BASE

BIBLE Reading Plan!

<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/22704>