

Walking the Way of the Kingdom: Putting into Practice the Way of Jesus

Winter 2026

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Session 2 – Reading the Bible

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

– Deuteronomy 4:3 (ESV)

The Bible shapes our reality. The Bible is primarily a revelation about God to us. He is the main character, not us. This is what happens when we come to the Bible to deepen our knowledge of God:

Wesley's suggestion for reading the Bible in the introduction to *Notes Upon the Old Testament*.

1. To set apart a little time, if you can, every morning and evening for that purpose?
2. At each time if you have leisure, to read a chapter out of the Old, and one out of the New Testament: is you cannot do this, to take a single chapter, or a part of one?
3. To read this with a single eye, to know the whole will of God, and a fixt resolution to do it? In order to know his will, you should,
4. Have a constant eye to the analogy of faith; the connection and harmony there is between those grand, fundamental doctrines, Original Sin, Justification by Faith, the New Birth, Inward and Outward Holiness.
5. Serious and earnest prayer should be constantly used, before we consult the oracles of God, seeing “scripture can only be understood thro’ the same Spirit whereby “it was given.” Our reading should likewise be closed with prayer, that what we read may be written on our hearts.

6. It might also be of use, if while we read, we were frequently to pause, and examine ourselves by what we read, both with regard to our hearts, and lives. This would furnish us with matter of praise, where we found God had enabled us to conform to his blessed will, and matter of humiliation and prayer, where we were conscious of having fallen short. And whatever light you then receive, should be used to the uttermost, and that immediately. Let there be no delay. Whatever you resolve, begin to execute the first moment you can. So shall you find this word to be indeed the power of God unto present and eternal salvation.

Notes:

Next week:

- 1) Read the packet I've provided.
- 2) Write down what your prayer practices look like. Don't be embarrassed: this is for you to start as a baseline.
- 3) Write down what you would love for your prayer practice to look like. Ask "what are the reasons for that gap? Are there things I could do or not do in order to reduce the gap?
- 4) Spend some time journaling around these question: how much does my prayer practice affect my understanding of reality and identity? Is it deepening my intimacy with God? What is the biggest obstacle to spending time in prayer? How will I go about overcoming that obstacle?