

Living the Life of Discipleship

Learning and Living God's Word

- *What is God's word?*
- *Recognizing different genres of God's word*
- *How to learn God's word?*
- *The power of God's word*
- *The Christ-centered word of God*
- *Closing exhortations*

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

- **A] A disciple is to endeavor to live by the word of God.**
 - *Every Christian should have a word life.*
 - 1 Peter 1:23 **having been born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God which lives and abides forever**.
 - *Christians are regenerated through the living and enduring message of God, so we should maintain a life of learning and living God's word.*
- **B] We cannot live what we have not learned.**
 - John 14:26 "But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**"

What is God's word?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- *These verses not only teach us what the word of God is, but what the word of God is useful for*
 - *Teaching.*
 - *Reproving.*
 - *Correction.*
 - *Training in right living.*
 - *Maturing.*
 - *Equipping for every good work.*

2 Peter 1:19-21 ¹⁹ ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, **which you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any**

private interpretation,²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- *The Holy Spirit authored the Scriptures, and Holy men wrote them out.*
- *Not human invention: **Prophecy did not come from human will or personal ideas.***

John 17:17 **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

- *God's word, the Scriptures, are the basis for absolute biblical truth.*
- *Biblical truth has its basis in the context of the Scriptures, and not man's presuppositions, interpretation or opinions.*
- *God's word is the final authority and not our feelings or opinions.*
- *Sola Scriptura means only the Scriptures are the infallible rule for Christian faith and practice.*
- *Church traditions are only valid if they agree with the Scriptures.*

Recognizing different genres of God's word

Major Genres of Scripture

- **Historical Narrative:** Stories and accounts of real events that show God working in human history (found in Genesis through Esther, and Acts).
- **Law (Torah):** Moral, civil, and ceremonial rules and instructions given to the nation of Israel (found in Exodus through Deuteronomy).
- **Poetry and Songs:** Rhythmic, emotional, and expressive writing used for praise, sorrow, and worship (found in Psalms and Lamentations).
- **Wisdom Literature:** Practical guidance, reflections on life, and moral maxims (found in Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes).
- **Prophecy:** Divine messages, warnings, and future predictions delivered by prophets to call people back to God (found in Isaiah through Malachi).
- **Gospels:** Unique biographical accounts detailing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).
- **Letters (Epistles):** Direct correspondence written by apostles to early churches and believers, offering theology and instruction for Christian living (Romans through Jude).
- **Apocalyptic Literature:** Both highly literal and sometimes symbolic; visionary writing meant to comfort and encourage persecuted believers with the ultimate victory of God (found in Revelation and parts of Daniel).

How to learn God's word?

Start with prayer, pick a passage, and use a simple step-by-step method to; observe (read and re-read), interpret (come to a conclusion), and apply (inspired application).

Various Bible study methods help you understand, interpret, and apply the Scriptures.

Inductive Bible Study:

This method focuses on three core steps to let the text speak for itself:

- Observation: Ask who, what, when, where, and why to find out what the text literally says.
- Interpretation: Figure out what the passage meant to its original audience.
- Application: Discover how the truth applies to your life today.

Topical Study:

- Focus: Choose a specific subject like; prayer, grace, or anxiety.
- Process: Use a concordance or a topical index to gather and compare verses related to that theme. A Bible search engine is hand too.

Biographical/Character Study:

- Focus: Examine the life of a specific biblical figure like David, Esther, or Peter.
- Process: Look up key passages about the person, study their choices and mistakes, and learn practical life lessons from their journey.

SOAP Method:

A simple acronym used for daily devotional journaling:

- S - Scripture: Write out a specific verse or short passage.
- O - Observation: Note what stands out to you in the text.
- A - Application: Write how you can live out this truth.
- P - Prayer: Pray and ask God to help you apply it.

Book Survey Method:

- Focus: Read an entire book of the Bible in one sitting to get a big-picture view.
- Process: Note the author, historical background, major themes, and flow before studying individual chapters in detail.

Word Study:

- Focus: Research a specific key word in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek. Download E-sword from the App Store. (\$2.99-\$9.99)
- Process: Use a lexicon or dictionary to see how the word is used across different passages to deepen your understanding.

1 Timothy 4:13-15 ¹³ Till I come, **give attention to reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. ¹⁵ **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.**

- *Be a disciplined Bible reader and Bible thinker, and you will grow in your knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.*

Proverbs 22:17-18 ¹⁷ **Incline your ear** and **hear the words of the wise**,

And **apply your heart** to my knowledge; ¹⁸ For *it* is a pleasant thing if you **keep them within you**; Let them all **be fixed upon your lips**,

- *Be a disciplined hearer of the word of God. Listen to good Bible teachers. Do not focus on charisma but biblical content.*
 - *Limit multitasking if you are going to retain the word.*
 - *The key to retention is attention.*
 - *Speak the Scriptures to yourself.*

The power of God's word.

Hebrews 4:12 For **the word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**.

James 1:21-25 ²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and **overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls**. ²² But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves**. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face **in a mirror**; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately **forgets what kind of man he was**. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty **and continues in it**, and **is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does**.

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, **That I might not sin against You**.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is **a lamp to my feet** And **a light to my path**.

John 8:32;36 ³² And you shall **know the truth**, and **the truth shall make you free**."

³⁶ Therefore if **the Son makes you free**, you shall be free indeed.

"The Spirit uses His own word, the word of God; and when we substitute our words for His, we substitute weakness for strength." -A.C. Dixon

The Christ-centered word of God.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, **He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself**.

Luke 24:44-45 ⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "**These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me**." ⁴⁵ And **He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures**.

John 5:39-40 ³⁹ **You search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify of Me**. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to **come to Me that you may have life**.

Psalms 40:7-8 ⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I come; **in the scroll of the book it is written of me**. ⁸ **I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart**."

Closing Exhortations:

Job 22:22 **Receive**, please, **instruction from His mouth**, And **lay up His words in your heart**.

- **Do not settle for a secondhand relationship with the Lord.**
- **Set up the secret place in your heart for reading the Bible daily, journaling and praying.**

Psalms 1:1-3 ¹ "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² **But his delight is in the law of the LORD**, And **in His law he meditates day and night**. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by

the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”

- *Fall in love with the word of God and you will fall in love with the God of the word.*
 - *“If you wish to know God, you must know His word.” -Spurgeon*
 - *God reveals Himself through His word.*
 - *The more you read, the more you will want to read; the less you read, the less you will want to read.*

Joshua 1:8 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate in it day and night**, **that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it**. For **then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**”

- *Look to the word of God for how you are going to live life and you will be blessed.*
- *God blesses obedience to His word.*

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, But **the word of our God stands forever.**”

- *God's word is eternal; man's wisdom and philosophies are not.*

Isaiah 55:11 “**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth**; **it** shall not return to Me void, But **it** shall accomplish what I please, And **it** shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent **it**.”

- *God's desire is that His word does a work in our lives.*
- *We will never outgrow the Bible. We will be disciples for the rest of our lives.*

Hebrews 5:11-14 ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have **become dull of hearing**. ¹² For though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need *someone* to teach you again **the first principles of the oracles of God**; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is **unskilled in the word of righteousness**, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But **solid food belongs to those who are of full age**, *that is*, those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**.

- *Guard your heart from becoming dull of hearing the word of God.*
- *Be skilled in the word of God.*
- *Spiritually maturing is connected to growing in the knowledge of God and His word.*
- *The word of God teaches us what is good and evil, and as His disciples, our senses should be exercised to know the difference.*