

How to Know the Bible

Five ways to know and learn the Word of God:

1. Hear

2. Read

3. Study

4. Memorize

5. Meditate

“How can you get the most from your bible study?”

Is there a right way to study? Answer yes. Are there different methods? YES. But certain principals must be adhered. 2 Timothy 2:15, an approved workman handling accurately the Word. Every workman needs tools for the trade to do his job right. We too need tools as well in order to be approved workman.

1. **Affirmation** = 2 Pet 1:20-21 we affirm that the Bible is the living truth of God. We believe they are God breathed words given to us. We believe it is inerrant and all sufficient. This is why we study.
2. **Preparation** = We often jump right in and ignore this crucial step, just like warm up in the beginning of your workouts is vital to properly prepare your heart and body for the workout so is preparing our hearts for time in the Word.

1 Peter 2:1-2; Psalm 119:18. Pray asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you understanding. Come in purity and humility, longing for the pure milk. **Open my eyes that I might behold wonderful things from the law** Example of my own failure to do this step.

3. **Observation = What is observation?** We must observe and ask what is taking place in the passage, what do I see? We must observe carefully and thoroughly.
 - a) Ask questions as you read and write them down. Who, What, Where and When?
John Mac says that if we can train ourselves and our students to ask and answer these questions we will have given them the most important tool to use in their bible study. Bible study starts with asking questions and then finding the answers.
 - b) As you observe the passage, look for: key words or phrases, key subjects and topics, commands (verbs), repeated words, anything unusual or unexpected. This is where the inductive method to study uses the colored markers and different symbols and may be very helpful to you.
 - c) Observe systematically, take the whole and break it down. **Take your time, don't give up too soon!**
4. **Investigation/Interpretation** = What does it mean? 1 John 2:27. Holy Spirit has been given to teach us. There is only one correct interpretation.
 - a) Begin by asking interpretive questions.
 - b) What is the importance of.....A given word? phrase, dates, geography, history.
 - c) Why did the writer say this and what did he mean?

d) What is the implication of a word, phrase or name?

Now we need to find your answers to your interpretive questions, use:

a) Context, context, context, verses before and after. Look at your passage in light of scripture as a whole, scripture will not contradict itself. All scripture will agree. Let the passage speak for itself in its context and be careful not to draw conclusions that the author did not intend.

b) Grammar and sentence structure.

c) Cross references, dictionaries, concordances, commentaries and other bible study aids that could be helpful. Let me caution you with commentaries. (Very easy to become a **commentary cripple**). **Donald Whitney** says, "Don't settle only for spiritual food that's been predigested by others. Experience the joy of discovering biblical insights firsthand through your own study. **With that being said you should check your conclusions against solid well trusted bible teachers.**

5. **Application** = While there is one correct interpretation of any particular passage there are many applications. **James 1** says we must be doers of the Word. What does scripture say when we only merely listen to the Word w/o doing it? We deceive ourselves!!!! ***The words of scripture must be understood to be applied, but until we apply them, we really don't know and understand them.*** Continual hearing w/o applying hardens our hearts.

We must now ask the important question, what effect will this passage have on my everyday life? What should my response be? A simple tool from FOF I like to use is: There are many other questions you could ask.

Put your SPECS on. Is there a:

SIN to forsake? Promise to claim?

Example to follow? Command to obey?

Stumbling block to avoid?