

Reading and Studying the Holy Bible “Prayerfully”



Submitted by
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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy Word above all thy name.”

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

It is most important that I share with you what the Holy Spirit wants you to know; otherwise, He will once again be grieved.

Reading and studying the Bible is based on our desire to commune with God so that we can be the people He desires us to be: it is a failing endeavor without the Holy Spirit. There is no universal pattern to read and study the Bible. Many use it as a text book to help them with direction for their lives; others gravitate toward stories and the characters as models for living a godly life. Some take the mystical approach: let it fall open to any page and you will find some spiritual encouragement or guidance to help you through the day. There are others that take the academic approach, which carefully examine each passage of scripture to determine the intent of the original authors. Most of us cycle through each of these approaches and several others in our attempt to get the most out of our Bible. Generally we desire to read and get the most from our Bible, but in our quest, we neglect the presence of the Holy Spirit who is here to help us, teach us, and reveal to us what the Father wants us to know about Him, while He teaches us how to live and gives us direction for our lives.

“ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we

might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

We cannot over emphasize our dependence on the Holy Spirit to help us **see God's truth as it really is, not as we'd like it to be.** We simply cannot understand spiritual truths without the help of the Holy Spirit. We may look at God's revelation in His handiwork, in nature, and in the Bible and misinterpret it.

Prayer is absolutely important to any ministering, teaching, reading, and studying of the Bible. It should not be a symbolic gesture; it should not be a formality (as is the norm) it is and should be the foundation of any studying of the Bible. The presence of Holy Spirit **must be invited and acknowledged** before we enter the Word so He (The Holy Spirit) can help us understand the mind of God.

When we read the Bible, we must be mindful that it is **His words to us**, and we are **hearing His voice.** What better person do you need to interpret His words than the person of the Holy Spirit? We use many books as the source of our study for Bible foundation, Sunday school, teaching seminars, and ministry tools but **have not used** the person Jesus Christ sent us to teach us. This has hindered our effect in our communities and in the world today. It is the most important thing we should do before we begin to read and study the Bible: **pray and ask the teacher** (The Holy Spirit) to reveal to us what the Father is saying to us through His Word.

The Scripture is full of wisdom. This is the wisdom of God, and we are absolutely dependent on the Holy Spirit to reveal this wisdom to us, so we can be Christ's community on earth. If we want to be effective as Christ's community in the World today and continue to establish His Kingdom throughout the world, **we must** first read His Words and prayerfully devote our lives to it through the direction of the Holy Spirit.

My life was personally impacted by a few men who operated as men sent by God to fulfill the great commission with some measure of urgency. They took the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

and moved as if they were part of the early church. They were not afraid to sell or give all that they had to ensure that the purpose they existed was not taken for granted. They lived and studied the Bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and taught us the same.

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James the brother of our savior Jesus is saying to us, if you think that you are a religious person (knows all about the Word) but do not devote your life to God's truth your quest to be righteous is in vain. **Christianity** is not about knowledge but **putting what you know about God and His Word into action** by allowing the

The Apostle Paul wrote to Brother Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

In other words, "don't be fazed by things that are happening around you. Stick with what you have learned and believed, being sure of the integrity of your teachers – why, you took in sacred scriptures with your mother's milk! There is nothing like the Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. God breathed every part of the scripture, and it is useful one way or another: showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word of God we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."

Preach the Word of God with intensity, it is His message; be instant in season, out of season; challenge, warn, reprove, rebuke, exhort and urge the people with all long suffering and doctrine (principle and spiritual guidelines) don't

ever quit. For the time will come when they will not endure sound spiritual truths or doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (have no stomach for solid teaching but will fill up on spiritual junk food or catchy opinions that tickle their fancy); and they shall turn their backs and ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (chase mirages). But watch thou in all things (be diligent), endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Don't grieve the Holy Spirit by gathering knowledge, **be devoted** to every Word, and as the Word of God changes your life, **share it with others! Be living proof** of the **truth it conveys**, and let it shape us for every good work that God has for us!