

Sanctification 101

Lesson 4

Bible Study

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: In the process of sanctification, as your affections are alienated more away from the world and exalted to a supreme love of God, your appetite for the Word of God will increase proportionately. Just as a parent can predict that a child is in a growth spurt because of the large amount of food they are consuming, you can spiritually predict future growth in a Christian when their appetite for the Word of God increases. An obstacle to sanctification and spiritual growth comes from an unhealthy diet of entertainment and pleasure with little feeding upon the “Bread of Life.” It is essential to a healthy Christian life to make the study of Scripture a regular habit.

There are several different methods of Bible study that help promote a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. The particular method is not as significant as the actual habit of studying the Scriptures on a daily basis. Bible study is different from Bible reading. While Bible reading is good, it will never produce a working knowledge of the Scriptures if it is not accompanied with a deeper study. Study is an attempt to dig deeper than just scraping the surface. To dig a hole in the ground requires you to dig multiple times in the same spot. After a couple shovels of top soil, the digging becomes more difficult and continues to get more difficult the deeper you go. The study of the Scriptures is work, hard work. “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman.*” It is important to find a method that works for you and it may require changing periodically to prevent it from becoming monotonous. However, there is a difference between difficulty and monotony. Don’t change methods just because it is getting difficult as that is often the point of genuine progress in understanding the Bible.

The purpose of these lessons is to teach you how to study God’s word though it is certainly not the only approach. Some other possible methods of studying your Bible are: read the same chapter every day for a month, read the same book every day for a month/year, attempt to determine the theme of a particular book, study a particular subject or doctrine, etc. My personal favorite that I highly recommend is to read the same seven chapters of the New Testament every day for a month. If you do so every month, after three years you will have read through the entire New Testament thirty times! This is more effective than just reading through the New Testament because the repetition forces you to dig deeper. (A reading schedule is available upon request.)

It is extremely important to be proactive in determining what you are going to study. Do not wait until you get up in the morning or until you pick up your Bible to figure out what you are going to study. Try different methods until you find one that works for you and then stick to it. Find someone to hold you accountable. Study the same Scriptures with that person (preferably your spouse and children) and discuss it and ask each other questions about it. The goal is to establish the spiritual discipline of Bible study. Those spiritual disciplines that are the most difficult are also the most profitable to our spiritual growth and sanctification. The three most difficult disciplines in the Christian life are prayer, Bible study, and Scripture memory and not surprisingly, they are also the three most beneficial. The Bible is full of admonitions from Christ and the apostles to develop these three disciplines in your life because they prevent living spiritually malnourished lives.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: Study -

Greek: (350) **anakrino** *an-ak-ree'-no*

(4704) **spoudazo** *spoo-dad'-zo*

Hebrew: (3854) **lahag** *lah'-hag*

Quotation: “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” Teddy Roosevelt

“I always do, and always will exhort you that at home you accustom yourselves to a daily reading of the Scriptures.”
Chrysostom

“We have done almost everything that is possible with the Hebrew and Greek writings... There is just one thing left to do with the Bible; simply to read it.” Richard Moulton

“Here, let it be said that no two things are more essential to a Spirit-filled life than Bible reading and secret prayer; no two things more helpful to growth in grace; to getting the largest joy out of a Christian life; toward establishing one in the ways of eternal peace. The neglect of these all important duties, presages leanness of soul, loss of joy, absence of peace, dryness of spirit, decay in all that pertains to spiritual life. Neglecting these things paves the way for apostasy, and gives the evil one an advantage such as he is not likely to ignore. Reading God’s Word regularly, and praying habitually in the secret place of the Most High puts one where he is absolutely safe from the attacks of the enemy of souls, and guarantees him salvation and final victory, through the overcoming power of the lamb.” EM Bounds

“God has left only one book to the church, and can we refuse to study it? There is an immense treasure in a nearby mine but too often we remain paupers because we will not put on work clothes to dig it out. The rust of our gold and silver, which we earn by much harder work, will rise up in judgment and say: ‘You worked overtime for pay-checks that turned into rust and dust; but you walked right over the field of the Word, where an incorruptible treasure was to be found, and yet were too lazy to do anything about it.

What has happened to the hunger of saints to study the Scripture? In years past they gave all they had - even the blood out of their veins - to purchase a few pages of it. Either these people were fools to pay so high a price for this knowledge or you are greater fools who refuse it when it is so readily obtainable.” EM Bounds

“God’s promises are many, and fitted exactly to each particular personal problem; but it requires diligent study to gather them all in. God has purposely scattered these promises throughout His word rather than cluster them in one place, so we must search every corner of Scripture - and then rejoice at what we have found!” Bounds

“Even if you fail in everything else you do, study the Bible” William Gurnall

“Nothing torments the devil more than to see his old companions neglect their former sinful pleasures and spend time studying the Scriptures instead.” William Gurnall

Confessions: (Look up and read these articles)

Spurgeon’s Catechism

Question: 2, 72-73

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What five things did Mr. Spurgeon say were necessary in the reading and hearing of the Scriptures to make it become effectual to salvation?

2. What is the difference between Bible reading and Bible study?
3. What did Job compare the Word of God to (Job 23:12)?
4. When should you determine the method and Scripture to study?
5. What are 5 different ways to study the Scriptures?
6. How did Jesus respond to the temptations of the Devil?
7. When should you, and when should you not, change your method of studying the Scriptures?
8. What three spiritual disciplines are most beneficial to the Christian life?
9. What made the Bereans more noble (Acts 17:11)?
10. According to Spurgeon's Catechism, how do we know how to glorify God?

Key Scriptures: (Look up these verses and fill in the blanks)

Job 23:12 Job viewed the words of God as more than his necessary _____ .

Psalm 19:7,8 The law of God is perfect and is used for _____ the soul. The value of the word of God is that it will make the simple _____ , make the heart to _____ , and enlighten the _____ .

Psalm 119:9 The way to cleanse your way is to take _____ to the word of God.

Psalm 119:105 The word of God gives direction as a _____ to our feet and a _____ to our path.

Hosea 4:6 God's people are destroyed for a lack of _____ . Because they were guilty of rejecting knowledge God _____ them. Because they had _____ the law of God, He promised to forget their _____

Matthew 4:4 Man cannot _____ by bread _____ but by every _____ that comes from God.

Acts 17:11 The Bereans were considered noble because they _____ the word of God with a _____ of mind and _____ the Scriptures to prove what they had been taught.

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by _____ the _____ of God.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ uses the word to _____ and _____ the church.

I Timothy 4:13 Paul challenged Timothy to spend time _____ .

II Timothy 2:15 We are told to _____ as a _____ so that we can properly interpret the meaning of the word of God.

II Timothy 3:14-17 In a time when there is great apostasy we must _____ in the things that we have _____ from the _____ which are able to lead a child to _____ through _____ in Christ. The Scriptures are given by _____ of God and are _____ for doctrine, reproof, correction, and _____ in righteousness that we may be _____ , completely _____ with every thing we need to live godly.

Hebrews 4:12 The word of God is alive and _____ . It is _____ than a sword and is able to discern the _____ and intentions of the _____ .

Hebrews 5:12-13 The best definition of a immature Christian is that they are _____ in the _____ .

James 1:22 We are expected to be _____ of the word and not _____ only, which is _____ ourself into thinking we are more spiritual than we truly are.

I Peter 1:23 The word of God will live _____ .

I Peter 2:2 Christians should crave the word of like a _____ baby because it causes us to _____ spiritually.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

II Timothy 3

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: Acts 17:11

Personal definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Bible Study -

Personal application: For one week, keep track of the total time you spend studying your Bible.

Monday – Thursday –

Tuesday – Friday –

Wednesday – Saturday -

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*)

How would your life be affected if you didn't own a Bible?

Extra Credit: Outline II Timothy 3. Identify the main theme and the key divisions.