

“How to read the Bible - How do you read the Bible?”

How to Study the Bible

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1. How important is it to “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the Bible, the word of God.

- *“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path ... Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul keeps them. ¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.”* Psalm 119:105, 129-31.
- *“... the household of God, ²⁰ (is) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ...”* Ephesians 2:19b-20.
See Rev. 21:14.
- *“I find my delight in your commandments (order, charge), which I love. ⁴⁸ I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.”* Psalm 119:119:47-48.

2. How often do you read the Bible?

- ✓ More than once a day: ____.
- ✓ Once a day: ____.
- ✓ Four+ days a week: ____.
- ✓ Once a week: ____.
- ✓ Only during a worship service or a Bible study/small group: ____.
- ✓ A couple of times a month: ____.
- ✓ Once every few months: ____.

3. Ways to read the Bible.

- Read the Bible in a Year.
- Read the Bible using a devotional book.
- Read a chapter a day.
- Pray when reading the Bible.
- When to read the Bible.

4. How do you read the Bible?

- Bruce Bickel’s approach:
 - *“Learning is for living and living is for loving.”*
 - *“What am I going to do with what I’ve just learned”*

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b. How is behavior and attitude change best achieved for a Christian maturing in Christ?

5. One Christian’s way of reading the Bible.

a. *“We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”* 2 Corinthians 3:18. See Romans 8:29

b. Three foundational questions: 1) *Who is God?* 2) *Who am I?* 3) *What does God expect of me?*

c. Five-part daily Bible reading routine:

- Prayer: often in the middle of the night.
- Journal: what happened yesterday -- worldly and heavenly.
- Read: a bit, until something grabs me.
- Not keeping to a schedule.
- Record in the journal: write out the section that grabbed me, and describe why it grabbed me, and if there is something God wants me to know or to do.

d. What grabs me.

- God-stopping: what is
 - Glorious; Heavy and Deep; Subtle and Nuanced; Out of place, Odd, “it’s not like God to say that”; Doesn’t make sense; Disturbing; Curiosity-driven.
- For example:
 - Under the “*glorious*” category: Exodus 15:11.
 - Under the “*doesn’t make sense; disturbing*” category: Psalm 39.
 - Under the “*curiosity-drive*” category: Acts sermons and teachings.

e. Word studies: seek to be an amateur specialist in the meaning and use of a particular word, phrase or subject.

- Concordance, cross-reference and Hebrew or Greek interlinear.
- Commentaries ... especially time tested.

f. It doesn’t come easy: lots of wrestling, asking hard questions, challenging yourself, twisting and turning “the rubrics cube” ... no canned answers.

g. I discern what Jesus is saying is the truth because I’ve been baptized in the Spirit, but also, I immerse in God’s word.

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- *“... when (the people) heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John.”* Luke 7:29
- Getting to know what God sounds like.