

Spiritual
Disciplines
Bible
Reading

In 1 Timothy 4:7 Paul tells Timothy to train himself for godliness. In order to be intentional in our desire to live out our Christian life well, there are various practices or disciplines that are helpful for us to do, as they position us to encounter God and understand His ways.

This week we are going to look at the practice of reading the Bible. Let's look at some Scriptures that will help us to hear what the Bible says about itself and how we can let it be fruitful in our lives.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

1 Peter 2:1-2

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

Jeremiah 23:29

²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

READ 2 Timothy 3:14-17—mark synonyms for the Bible with a and put a number next to words or phrases that indicate its benefits.

V16—what is the source of Scripture? How does knowing this impact our approach as we read it?

V15-17—what are the benefits of Scripture? Reflect on how each one will strengthen your walk with God

In v17—what will be the ultimate outcome?

(note—the goal is not just to know but to do!)

Read the following Scriptures and note how the word of God is described in each one. What does each tell you about its purpose / potential?

Psalm 119:105

1 Peter 2:1-2

(long for—Strong's 1971—dote upon, Intensely crave possession)

Jeremiah 23:29

Hebrews 4:12—note all the details in this verse.

(living—Strong's 2198— to live, quick, alive, lively)

(active—Strong's 1756— effectual, powerful, operative)

Matthew 24:35—How does this verse impact on our approach to the Bible?

Psalm 119:97-104

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. ¹⁰² I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth ¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Mark 4: 14 - 20

¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

READ Psalm 119:97-104 and underline all the benefits of the Word of God

Note all the statements made about the Psalmists interaction with God's Law and reflect on each one.

What is the benefit of this in his life—reflect on each one.

How does this Psalm demonstrate the importance of Bible reading in the life of a Christian?

Jesus tells and interprets a parable about a sower sowing seed. It has a lot to teach us about the Word of God bearing fruit in our lives.

READ Mark 4:14-20 - underline the word "hear"

What is the word likened to in this story and what does that tell you about it?

What is the same about each of the four types of ground?

List each one, and note the outcome for the seed? What does each one represent and teach?

Path—a hard heart v15

(note who is working against us as we hear the Word)

Rocky ground—a shallow heart v16-17

(note what causes the persecution to arise.)

Thorny ground—a divided heart v18-19

(note and discuss the 3 things that choke the word and make it unfruitful)

Good ground—a receptive heart v20

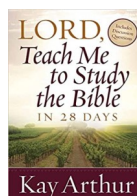
Is just reading/hearing the Bible enough?

How is fruitfulness impacted by the condition of our hearts?

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