



DILIGENT
STUDY of
GOD'S WORD

Diligent study of the Word of
God is His will for every believer
(Josh. 1:8; Deut. 6:6-9).

⁸ This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on^[a] it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Joshua 1:8

⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol^[a] on your forehead.^[b] ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Many professing believers read the Scriptures only sporadically, in times of crisis, or as a mere routine. The Word is not reflected in their lives. They do not dig for divine truth as though it were hidden treasure (Prov. 2:1-5).

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² listening closely^[a] to wisdom
and directing your heart to understanding;
³ furthermore, if you call out to insight
and lift your voice to understanding,
⁴ if you seek it like silver
and search for it like hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and discover the knowledge of God.

Prov. 2:1-5

Tragically, the typical believer today depends solely upon Sunday sermons for his Scriptural knowledge. There is a lack of commitment to serious study of the Scriptures. Some believers are dedicated to Christ but do not know how to study the Bible effectively.

1. Physical Requirements. Be rested and fresh.

Morning study is better from this standpoint. Get to bed early enough to get the rest you need. Have all study helps readily at hand, including a notebook, dictionary, and concordance. Use a version of the Scriptures that you can understand.

2.Spiritual Requirements. The Bible involves understanding by spiritual as well as mental means. The natural mind cannot understand the teachings of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14). God's Word is veiled from many eyes (2 Cor. 3:13-15).

14 But the person without the Spirit^[a] does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated^[b] spiritually. 1 Cor. 2:14

¹³ We are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from gazing steadily until the end^[a] of the glory of what was being set aside, ¹⁴ but their minds were hardened. For to this day, at the reading of the old covenant, the same veil remains; it is not lifted, because it is set aside only in Christ. ¹⁵ Yet still today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts, 2 Cor. 3:13-15

- a. Pray and ask God to teach you (Psa. 119:33, 73).
- b. Confess all known sin (Psa. 199:133).
- c. Have a clear conscience before God (Acts 24:16).
- d. Reconcile with others where possible (Matt. 5:24).
- e. Be humble in coming to the Word (Matt. 11:25).
- f. Desire to do the will of God (John 7:17; Jas. 1:21-25).
- g. Come believing it is the very Word of God (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16).

1. General Procedure.

- a. Concentrate when you read! Resist mind-wandering.
- b. Make notes on thoughts and questions. Underline important words.
- c. Read sentences and phrases rather than one word at a time.

Three simple principles govern general procedure.

1. NOTHING BUT THE WORD is finally authoritative.

2. ALL THE WORD gives balance and correctness.

3. INTERPRETING BY THE WORD is the most reliable method

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Ask yourself: What is the importance of this truth to my daily living? Is this a principle working in my life? What do I specifically plan to do about it? Why have I not acted before? Who will verify that I take action and pray with me until it happens? Am I sincere?

Is There A Promise To Claim? The assurance of the faithfulness of God's promises rests upon His integrity. "God is not a man that He should lie" ([Num. 23:19](#)). Believers have long made a practice of claiming God's promises by faith ([2 Pet. 1:4](#)). Make sure you have noted any conditions. Answered prayer, for example, is highly conditional ([Jas. 1:5-7](#); [1 John 3:22](#); [5:4](#); [Psa. 66:18](#)). Frequently we are hindered because we think some things are too hard for God ([Jer. 32:27](#)). Endorse God's checks on the Bank of Heaven. Make them yours!

2. **Is There An Example To Follow?** The lives of the heroes of the Bible provide many positive examples. The lives of godly men and women are intended to be models for us (Heb. 13:7). Imitate them!

3. **Is There A Command To Obey?** "If ye love me, keep my commandments," said the Savior ([John 14:15](#)). Obedience to Christ is evidence that we are true believers ([1 John 2: 3-4](#)). Obedience is not to be confused with "legalism," which is adding to God's requirements for salvation or Christian living. The Word should speak to us constantly in areas where we may now be in disobedience. Do as the King commands!

4. **Is There A Sin To Forsake Or A Warning To Heed?** We may need to turn from something that is hindering us, to cease to do something. It may be an attitude such as bitterness or envy or an unresolved grievance. This will grieve the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 4:30](#)). We may be worrying instead of trusting. Our priorities in life may be wrong. Our devotional life may be neglected. We may be seeking security on earth instead of laying up treasure in heaven. Change when you are warned!

5. Is There An Encouragement Given? Virtually every believer has experienced discouragement. This is one of the Devil's principal tools of attack. Those who are introspective (looking within too much) by temperament are very prone to this. God limits our trials or temptations (1 Cor. 10:13). He gives us adequate resources in every situation. The believer can encourage others with the same refreshment he receives from God (2 Cor. 1:3-5). Rise up from discouragement and doubt!

6. **Is There Counsel To Take?** We must learn not to plan without first consulting the Lord ([Jas. 4:13-16](#)). A very clear statement from Scripture can help us at a crucial time. Most of the will of God can be found within the pages of Scripture; if not directly, then in principle. Feeling-oriented believers miss out on God's direction through the Scripture because they confuse their subjective feelings with the Word of God. Ask and expect God to show you through the Word.

7. **Is There A Character Trait To Be Noted?** What is to be learned about God Himself? Note every character trait of the Lord Jesus, considering that we are to be conformed to His likeness ([Rom. 8:29](#)). Learn from the lives of God's great men, such as Abraham, Daniel, and Paul. What does God want to see developed in your life?

21 Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent,^[e] humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face^[f] in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does. James 1:21-25