

How to Get the Most from Reading your Bible (Part 2)¹

Deut 17.18–20 “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. 19 And it shall be with him, and **he shall read in it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

11. _____ the Bible highly.

Psa 119.72 *The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

A. It’s the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

B. It is the sure _____ to Heaven.

2 Tim 3.15 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.

C. You were _____ by it.

James 1.18 *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

D. You need to _____ by it.

1 Pet 2.2 *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it **you may grow up into salvation**—*

Job 23.12 *I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.*

12. Love the Bible _____.

Psa 119.159a *Consider how I love your precepts!*

Psa 19.10 *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

¹ Adapted from Thomas Watson, abridged and modernised by Matthew Vogan

Psa 119.50 *This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.*

13. Read the Bible with an _____ heart.

Luke 8.15 *As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast
in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.*

A. Be willing to know the _____ and complete will of God.

Job 34.32 *teach me what I do not see;*

B. Read in order to be _____ and made better by it.

John 17.17 *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

14. _____ to yourself everything that you read in the Bible; take every word as spoken to you directly.

2 Kings 22.11-13 *When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. 12 And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, ...saying, 13 "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."*

15. Pay close attention to the _____ of the Bible as much as the promises.

Psa 119.1-5 *Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!*

2 *Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,*

3 *who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!*

4 *You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.*

5 *Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!*

Psa 119.9-10 *How can a young man keep his way pure?*

By guarding it according to your word.

10 *With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!*

16. Don't get carried away with the minor details, rather make sure to pay closest attention to the _____ things in the Bible.

1 Cor 15.3–4 For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Titus 3.9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

17. _____ yourself with the Bible.

2 Cor 13.5 **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves**. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to **meet the test!**

18. Pay special attention to those passages in the Bible that speak to your _____ situation.

A. Affliction.

Heb 12.7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

2 Cor 4.17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Psa 126.5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

B. The sense that Christ's presence and smile are withdrawn.

Isa 54.8 In overflowing anger **for a moment**
I hid my face from you,
 but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”
 says the LORD, your Redeemer.

Heb 13.5b “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

C. Sin

1Pet. 2.11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Gal. 5.24 *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

1 John 1.9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

D. Unbelief

Isa. 26.3 *You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.*

2Sam. 22.31 *This God— his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*

John 3.15 *that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

19. Pay special attention to the _____ and lives of people in the Bible as living sermons to you.

A. God's _____ of sinners.

- Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for sexual immorality. (Gen. 19, Jude 7)
- Israel was judged with plagues for idolatry (Num 25:3-4,9)
- God humbled proud Nebuchadnezzar by making him eat grass. (Dan. 5)
- Ananias and Sapphira were killed for lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5)
- Herod took the glory from God, and he was eaten by worms. (Acts 12)

1 Cor 10.11 *Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.*

B. God's mercy on and _____ of saints.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3)
- Daniel in the lion's den. (Dan. 6)
- Paul and Barnabas in jail. (Acts 16)

20. Don't stop reading the Bible until you find your heart _____.

Psa 119.93 *I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.*

Jer. 23.29 *Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*

Luke 24.32 *“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”*

21. Put into _____ what you read in the Bible.

Psa 119.57 *The LORD is my portion;
I promise to **keep your words.***

Psa 119.101 *I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to **keep your word.***

Deut. 17.19 *And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by **keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,***

Psa. 119.105 *Your word is a **lamp to my feet**
and a **light to my path.***

22. Regularly put yourself under the faithful _____ of the Bible.

Prov 8.34 *Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.*

2 Cor 4.1–2 *Therefore, **having this ministry by the mercy of God,** we do not lose heart. 2 **But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth** we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.*

1 Tim 4.13 *Until I come, devote yourself to the public **reading** of Scripture, to **exhortation, to teaching.***

James 1.21–22 *Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word,** which is able to save your souls. 22 **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.***

23. _____ that you will profit from reading the Bible.

Psa 119.18 *Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.*

Luke 24.45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

1 Cor 2.11–12 no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

24. Don't be discouraged by natural _____ to profiting from the Bible.

A. You don't seem to _____ as much as others do.

- Remember the different yields from the different soils.

Matt 13.8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

B. You may feel slow of _____.

Luke 9.45 But they did not understand this saying, and **it was concealed from them**, so that they might **not perceive it**. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Heb. 5.11 About this we have much to say, and it is **hard to explain**, since you have become dull of hearing.

2 Pet 3.15–16 Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. **There are some things in them that are hard to understand**, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

C. Your _____ is bad.

- Remember you are still able to have a good _____ even though you may have a poor memory.
- You may still remember the most _____ things even if you cannot remember everything.

John 14.26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.