



# How to Study Your Bible



- ❖ II Timothy 3:16-17 - *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works..”*
- ❖ Psalm 119:47-48 – *“And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”*

- ❖ II Timothy 2:15 – “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”
  - ❖ Job 23:12 – “*Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*”
- ❖ Joshua 1:8 – “*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*”



- ❖ We find in the Scriptures not just an emphasis to read the Word of God, but to study it, meditate on it, and live it.
- ❖ As Christians our love for God should produce a love for His Word.
- ❖ God's Word is inexhaustible. If we continue to study the Bible, we will continue be refreshed from it.
- ❖ Tonight we will look at some different Bible study Methods to help keep your Bible study time varied and refreshing.

## **Some things to consider before we begin our study:**

- Evaluate your motive for study – We are not just looking for more knowledge of the Bible. We are looking for a deeper faith-based relationship with The Lord through our study of the Bible.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your study- Studying the Bible is more than just a physical work; it is a spiritual work. We must have total dependence on the Holy Spirit to teach us.
- Prepare your heart and mind – Be in a spirit of prayer and eliminate any distractions. We should be prepared to meditate on the Word of God.



- Be willing to sacrifice a proper amount of time to study the Bible.
  - Determine to be obedient to the Lord before your study begins.
- Consider developing a Bible study resource Library. – There are all kinds of tools available to us today that aid us in Bible study. Study Bibles, Commentaries, Concordances, Bible dictionaries, online resources, etc.
- **CONTEXT** – Fit everything you study from the Bible in its proper context. Taking things out of context is probably the greatest problem in Bible interpretation today.

## 1. Studying a Book of the Bible

- God's Word is one living body of truth, but it is given to us in a library of sixty-six books.
  - Each book of the Bible is unique. Each book of the Bible can have many different elements: key words, key chapters, key verses, unique tones, a central theme, secondary themes, main characters, minor characters, etc.
  - Your goal in studying a book of the Bible is to discover what these things are. What is the theme of this book? Who are some main characters in this book?

## 2. Studying the characters of the Bible

- The Bible is a record of God's dealings with mankind.
- There are countless characters in scripture for us to study giving us an opportunity for exciting and diverse Bible studies.
- The easiest way to approach a biblical character study is to identify everywhere in scripture the person is mentioned. This is where you may want to consider getting extra study tools.
- Take every mention of a Bible character before you make an assumption about a Bible character.



- Once you have done all of your research there are 2 important things you want to identify when concluding your study:
  - 1.) What are the main lessons I learned about this character. – What was their relationship with God like, what were good qualities or bad qualities this character possessed, etc.
  - 2.) What are some personal applications I have learned from this character. – After studying this character, What can I learn from their strengths or weaknesses? What are some of the things in this character's life that most impressed me?



### **3. Studying themes/words of the Bible**

- No passage of scripture can be fully interpreted without an accurate understanding of the words of the text.
- Some of the Most important doctrines we hold to revolve around a single word. – Faith, grace, atonement, adoption, redemption, etc.



## A good word study takes just 4 steps:

1. Find the definition of the English Word (a Webster's 1828 dictionary or Vine's Bible Dictionary would be helpful)
2. Find the word used in the original language and its definition. (Blue letter Bible online resource would be helpful)
3. Find every time the word is used in the Bible.
4. Draw a personal application from your study.



## **Other Bible study methods to consider:**

- Studying the Bible Geographically – The Bible is full of nations, empires, cities, mountains, valleys, and bodies of water.
- Studying the Bible Historically – How does the Bible fit into history? When were certain Books written? When were certain characters alive? When did certain big events take place? You can find the answers to these questions by studying the history of the Bible.



## Homework:

- GET IN THE WORD!
- If you are faithfully reading the Bible devotionally, try using one of these approaches for a deeper study.
- If you are not faithfully in the Bible than start by reading it. We must start somewhere!