

# Improving Your Bible Reading

by Wayne Goff

## God Is Talking!

It's important for all Christians to habitually read God's Word because it is God's way of talking to us. It is **extremely passive** in its approach, and God did this for a reason. Down through the centuries God spoke to men in "various ways" (Heb. 1:1), but now He speaks to us through His Son. Jesus chose the inspired Word to relay to us what we need to know. How we treat it is, in itself, a form of judgment. Men have ignored it, analyzed it, perverted it, and "twisted" it (2 Pet. 3:16). Nevertheless it remains "the power of God to salvation" (Rom. 1:16) and it is indestructible (Matt. 24:35) because it is Divine!

**What you do with the Word of God will have a great deal to do with your final judgment!** Sadly, many brethren think they can ignore its contents, listen slightly to a sermon or two per week, and somehow get into heaven. It's not quite that easy.

We must all "be diligent" to stand approved before God by handling properly God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). So here are some suggestions on how to make your Bible reading more profitable. *The following suggestions were borrowed and adapted from an article by Mr. J.R. Briggs.*

### 1. Write It Out

**Write out by hand** a Scripture, a section of Scripture, or an entire chapter or book. In this modern computer age, this may seem like torture but in reality it helps engage your mind with each particular word as you slowly write it out. Think of this as a form of meditation as you write. Bible book stores regularly sell "Journaling Bibles" which tend to emphasize adding personal artwork to the Scriptures, but which could be used for your own writing purposes.

### 2. Ask Questions

Read a passage and write down on a piece of paper questions about it. Don't worry about answering the questions at first, just write down the things you don't understand about the text, or things you want to understand better. When you go back and look at these questions, it reveals what more you need to learn about that Scripture.

### 3. Put Yourself In The Story

As I preach the Gospel, I am always trying to engage my audience to imagine yourself in that text. Imagine being the apostle Paul in prison as he writes the prison epistles. Or imagine yourself to be one of the recipients — Timothy, Titus, Philemon, etc. — because this makes the text real and lifts it up out of the pages into the memory banks of your mind. The Bible is **real**!

### 4. Read In A Group

A great way to **motivate** and **hold accountable** Bible readers is to get a small group together to read the Scriptures. As you do, ask questions about the text and let each reader try to answer them:

- What's going on in the story/passage?
- What excites or encourages me about this passage?
- What challenges me about the passage?
- What is the application for me in the passage?

### 5. Memorize Bible Verses

Many people do not believe that memorization does any good. But from personal experience, I can tell you that it does a great deal of good! Yes, it is sometimes laborious, and some verses are harder to learn than others, but all Scripture is valuable and memorization helps you focus on each word, each verse, and each chapter — and your mind will then recall those things, dwell on them, mull them over, and continue to process it. So many people rob themselves of this blessing because God's Word will **transform** your thinking — if you will let it! Romans 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18. "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119:11).

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