
Building Bible Literacy Part III

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Feed on His Word

There will have a cost that also prevents us from getting into His Word! People do not want or like to be convicted of their sins. They would rather choose the sins that destroy them rather than choose the right and good path that blesses them. They may even refuse to acknowledge another and better way. The application, as John demonstrated, is our call to heed God's precepts and make them known to others, even though we may suffer for our obedience. However, whatever we endure, our reward will be far, far greater...*sweet* (Rev. 9:20).

So, do you want to get into His Word? Does it still sound too scary? Fear not; the sweetness we have available to us is far greater than the sour we may encounter! Getting into God's Word has to do with the fact that God's Word must first transform and "affect" us before it can be used to have an "effect" on others. The question for us is *what blocks this from happening?* Busyness? Fear? Conviction? What? The Gospel must be experienced and be impacting before it can be used to make an impact upon others.

As we feed on His Word, we grow from His precepts, and who we are and what we can be are significantly enhanced from His work in us; thus, our efforts to bring Him glory will, in turn, flourish. His Truth is the impact for whatever condition or situation we face. We must allow Christ to transform us as we digest His principles and apply them to our lives and faith so we can be used by our Lord to influence and affect others. Truth is bitter to those who do not like it and to those of us who need to be moved and challenged to make room for it in our mindsets and worldviews. Are His Word and precepts a part of you? If not, why not? For us to thrive as His children and His messengers, His Word must be a part of us—deeply and passionately! This means that to be an effectual Christian, we must walk in Christ and remain trusting and faithful with our confidence and submission to Him. If not, we are of no use to God or to others, and we become the noise of 1 Cor. 13:1, not the love of verses three and onward.

Allowing God's Word to transform and affect us before we engage more in the Christian life is essential, as to teach His precepts to others is paramount. God's Word is sweet as are His promises; however, it will be bitter when God's judgments commence; when we are in Him we do not need to worry, but, will He say "well done good and faithful servant" to you? What about if we ignore His Word, refuse to get in it, and just have all kinds of excuses while we watch junk on TV instead? God will deal with the sins of humanity, as he will deal with us with our unfaithfulness. Saved? Yes, perhaps; but as the book of James says, what good is it to know Him and not grow in Him or make Him known?

The Plan to Know His Word Better

So, do you want to know His Word better? Below are some ideas that I have learned and put into practice that have helped me greatly. This is not just for study,

sermon preparation, or for a long, drawn out *exegetical* analysis. We have those too on our [How to Study the Bible](#), [Bible Study Aids](#) and [Bible Study Methods](#) at www.withtheword.org Channels, but this plan will help you prepare to walk with Christ more closely, And, if you are a leader, you can lead for His glory; if you are a pastor, you can teach his Word better, because you will know it better and even know who Caleb is and how we can be like Him too.

The Simplest Way to Learn the Bible!

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. Psalm 119:10

(This process would fall in the first steps of any *exegetical* or *inductive* approach.)

- **The Basic “win-win” plan:** If you just take a Bible book, any one, such as Matthew and read it every day for a month, you will know it beyond measure! Then, keep applying this approach to each Book, one at a time.
- **The Basic “easy” plan:** Listen to your book on tape or MP3 several times—as you drive, at a break when you get up, before you go to bed, as you shop, etc.
- **The Basic “synergistic” Plan; Do Both!** I have found this is the simplest, easiest way to learn and know the Bible!

Keep this in mind: The more you expose yourself to His Word, the more He will expose His Word to you! And, this can be done in less time than it takes to watch a half hour TV show! You will have far more knowledge of His Word and be more active and involved in our Lord than perhaps 90% of Christians who usually just “pew sit” and do nothing with their faith. What will you do?

Questions

Read Psalm 119

1. In the passage in Revelation 10, the call is to be proactive—to take what the Lord has given and do as He has empowered and called. What will you do with this call?
2. What has He called you to do, and with what? How many times do we ignore His call?
3. Read Revelation 10:8-11 several times. How many times do you think you need to read it before you have it memorized? Try using some of the suggestions.
4. Once you have this passage memorized how will you feel about it? How will this impact your life? How can this feat motivate you to read and memorize more Bible passages?

5. What can you do to make the effort and exercise diligence to really get to know the Bible?
6. Why do some Christians find it hard and become fearful and see this as too daunting?
7. What happens to our personal lives and our lives collectively as a church, when God's Word becomes a greater part of us, affecting all we are and do?
8. God has better means to make Himself known to people, but He still desires to use us. Why is that?
9. What needs to happen in your life and Christian walk for God's ways to go deeper within you, changing you from the inside out? How would your learning and obedience be a prime source of joy?
10. Are you afraid to ask yourself if God's Word and precepts are a part of you? If not, when will you ask?
11. What can you do to gain a better desire to grasp God's Word?
12. How have you seen God's Word convicting and moving people beyond where they thought they could do and go? What about you?
13. The Gospel must be experienced and impacting before we can be used to make it impact upon others. So, what are you going to do to allow God's Word to first transform and affect you before you have an effect on others?
14. What passage will you memorize next? When will you do it? What will be your plan? Who can hold you accountable?