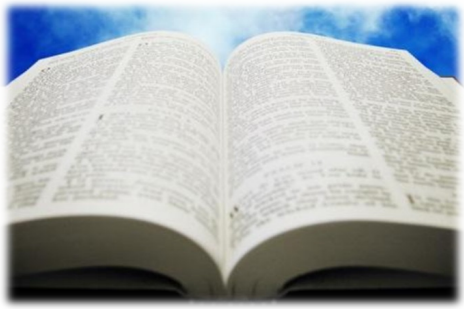
HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE

. . . and get something out of it

(God's Plan for Bible Reading)

Psalm 119

10/7/2012



I. Reserve a special time
to get alone in God's Word (v. 147-148)

II. Prepare your heart
to receive God's Word (v. 2, 10, 32)

III. Pray for "open eyes"
to understand God's Word (v. 18)

IV. Memorize important verses
to internalize ("hide") God's Word (v. 11)

V. Meditate on verses you know
to strengthen yourself with God's Word (v. 15)

VI. Sing songs of Scripture
to gain joy and peace from God's Word (v. 54)

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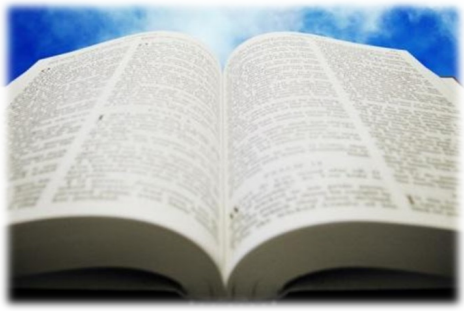

Introduction:

I. Reserve a special time to get alone in God's Word (v. 147-148)

II. Prepare your heart to receive God's Word (v. 2, 10, 32)

David's attitude toward the Bible:

He loved it (v. 97,113, 119, 127, 159, 163, 167)

He longed for it (v. 20, 40, 131)

He delighted in it (v. 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 174)

A. Ask God to "incline your heart" (give you a desire) for the Word (v. 36)

David considered the Word to be:

1. Better than . . . "gold and silver" (v. 72; cp. v. 127, 162)

2. Sweeter than honey to my mouth" (v. 103)

B. "Incline your heart" (determine) to obey what you learn from the Word (v. 112)

III. Pray for "open eyes" to understand God's Word (v. 18)

Psalm 119:18 is the secret to spiritual "20/20 vision."

--We all have blind spots.

--We tend to merely skim the surface.

"Teach me thy statutes" (v. 26, 64, 68, 124, 135)

"Make me to understand" (v. 27)

"Teach me" (v. 33)

"Give me understanding" (v. 34, 73, 125)

"Teach me thy judgments" (v. 108)

IV. Memorize important verses to internalize ("hide") God's Word (v. 11)

Psalm 37:31 - "The law of his God is in his heart: none of his steps shall slide."

Psalm 40:8 - "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."

[Example: Mary pondering God's words in her heart (Lk. 2:19, 51)]

Memorize verses that deal with a weakness in your life.

V. Meditate on verses you know to strengthen yourself with God's Word (v. 15)

A. Meditate when problems strike (v. 23, 78)

B. Meditate in the darkest night (v. 148)

C. Meditate to gain insight (v. 99)

D. Meditate because you love what's right (v. 97)

Meditation is the key to successful Christian living (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)

VI. Sing songs of Scripture
to gain joy and peace from God's Word (v. 54)

Singing is the key to being Spirit-filled! And is the evidence of being Spirit-filled!

Eph. 5:19 - "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Col. 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom: teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Conclusion:

Reading your Bible and getting something out of it is the key to:

1. A clean life (v. 9, 11)

2. A calm life (v. 50, 165)

3. A complete life

   a. Complete in wisdom (v. 98-100)

   b. Complete in obedience (v. 33-34)