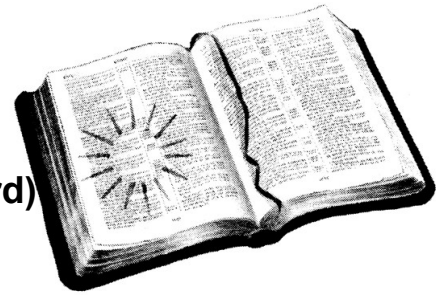
How to Read Your Bible

and Get Something out of it (Part 1)

(The Necessity to Read & Heed God Word)

(Selected Scriptures from Psalm 119)

1-15-2020



Introduction:

What happens when I neglect God's Word?

My Faith Weakens
My Conscience Quiets
My Fellowship with God becomes Distant
My Growth Stops
My Flesh Yields to Temptation
My Service Diminishes

- **What happens when I read & heed God's Word?** ***My Faith Grows (Rom. 10:17) and every area of my life becomes blessed. David describes some of those blessings in Psalm 119.***

When I read & heed the Bible…

1. My Conscience is Clean (v.6)

2. My Worship is Right (v.7; 62)

3. My Conduct is Pure (v.9; 11)

4. My Soul receives Counsel (v.24)
   a. My discouraged Heart is Revived (v.25; 93)
   b. My Grieving Heart is Strengthened (v.28)

5. My Shackles to Sin are Freed (v.45)

6. My Witness is Emboldened (v.46)

7. My Wisdom is Increased (v.104)
   a. I become wiser than my enemies (v.98)
   b. I become more insightful than my teachers (v.99)
   c. I become more mature than my elders (v.100)

8. My Path is Directed (v.105)

9. My Heart becomes Joyful (v.111, 143, 162)

10. My Mind is Enlightened (v.130)

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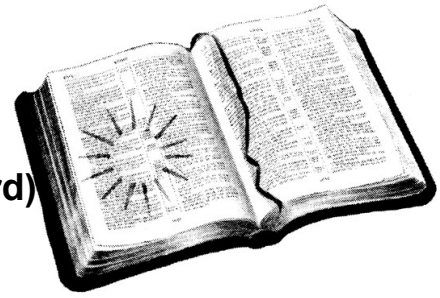

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c. My discouraged Heart is Revived (v.25; 93)
d. My Grieving Heart is Strengthened (v.28)

15. My _____ are Freed (v.45)

16. My _____ is Emboldened (v.46)

17. My _____ is Increased (v.104)

d. I become wiser than my enemies (v.98)
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Introduction:

God has spoken!

The Bible is not just any book. It is God's Word! Eight Rational Proofs for Inspiration

1. Unity - The Bible was written by means of 40 different writers, in three languages (Hebrew and Aramaic - O.T.; Greek - N.T.), over a 1,500 year period, and yet the Scriptures have only one theme: namely, Jesus Christ and His salvation of mankind through His sacrificial and substitutionary death (See: Lk. 24:25-27; Jn. 5:39, 46; Acts 10:43, 18:28; I Cor. 15:3).

2. Prophecy - Fulfilled by Jesus at His first coming (Mt. 5:17; Lk. 24:27; Jn. 19:24) The odds of only 8 prophecies fulfilled by Christ would be 1 in 280,000 plus 27 zeros (See: Hefley - p.24,25; "What's so great about the Bible" David C. Cook Pub. Co.)

EX: Ps. 22 - written about 1,000 B.C.
Is. 53 - written about 750 B.C.

3. Honesty - Shows people as they really are. The Bible's heroes are not "sugar-coated!" Rather, the faults of even the greatest are brought out (Abraham, Moses, David, Peter).

The Bible also describes sin as it is; heaven and hell as they are; and God as He is (example of the tension between election and free will - If man wrote the Bible, he would have relieved it).

4. Durability - The Bible has lasted through the ages, though attempts have been made to exterminate this Book as no other (EX: Jer. 36:1-2, 27-28).

Voltaire, the French infidel, said: "Another century, [and] there will not be another Bible on earth." After his death, his printing press was used to print Bibles!

5. Power - To change (transform) lives.

6. Freshness - George Mueller said: "I read through the Bible 100 times, and each time it is new to me."

7. Scientific Accuracy -

The earth is round (a circle) (Is.40:22)
The earth hands on nothing (Job 26:7)
The life of the flesh is in the blood (Gen 9:4; Lev. 17:11)
Circumcision on the 8th. day (Lev.12:3)
universal flood
Uncountable multitude of stars (Gen.15:5; Jer.33:22)
Plants and animals reproduce only after their kind (species) (Gen.1)

8. Historical Accuracy

Proven by - Recent archaeological discoveries (cities discovered; customs proven etc.)
Comparing the Bible with other historical writings contemporary with the Bible (Ex. Josephus)

God has providentially guarded (protected) His Word.

Promises of Preservation

a. Psalm 119:89 - "Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven" ("settled" = stands firm).

b. Psalm 119:152 - "Concerning Thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever."

c. Psalm 119:160 - "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."

d. Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever."

e. Matthew 5:18 - "For verily (truly) I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled" (cp. Lk. 16:17).

f. Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

g. I Peter 1:23-25 - "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

You need to take in God's Word daily...

The Bible is a Book of Power. It has the power to totally transform your life! "Transformation" - The Holy Spirit's use of the Bible to change (totally transform) a person's life from condemnation to salvation and from sin unto Godliness.

* No Disciple can live successfully without a Daily Quiet Time in God’s Word

Ro 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Importance of the Bible:

Job considered God's Word more important than his necessary Food
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.

Jesus said God's Word was vitally important for a person to sustain his life:
Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Jeremiah testified that God's Word was a food that brought joy to his heart:
Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart:

Joshua discovered that God's Word was the key to his life's success:
Jos 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.

The Psalmist testified that God had elevated the importance of His Word even above the importance of His Name!
Ps 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

David considered God's Word sweeter than honey and of more value than Gold
Psalm 119:103 - How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Psalm 119:72 - The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Col. 3:16 says, however, that you should *"let the word of Christ dwell in you <u>richly</u> in all wisdom"*

What happens when I neglect God's Word?

My Faith Weakens

Since the Bible teaches that one's faith comes by means of God's Word, when God's Word is neglected, one's faith will be diminished (Rom.10:17).

And since one's faith is the bottom line foundation for the Christian life, Satan knows that if he can be successful in attacking your faith, he will be successful in ruining every other part of your Christian walk.

My Conscience Quiets

Since the conscience functions based on the information fed into it, one who does not read God's Word will not have a sensitive conscience to sin.

The things that once bothered you no longer do.

Your conscience can become dull (Acts 28:27)

My Fellowship with God becomes Distant

We speak to God through Prayer, but He speaks to us through His Word (not visions, dreams, etc.) If you do not read your Bible, you limit the conversations God wants to have with you.

John 14:23-24: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

The purpose for which you were saved was so that you might know intimate fellowship with your God

My Growth Stops

Spiritual growth comes via the consumption of the "milk of the Word"
1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

You can measure your spiritual growth by the quantity of the Word you are drinking
in daily: much milk - much growth
little milk - little growth
no milk - no growth

My Flesh Yields to Temptation

How did Jesus fight the Devil? With God's Word (Mt.4 – "It is written")

How strong is your appetite for God's Word? You answer is "an index of your Christian health" (Hiebert, p. 124).

Do you want to know why you feel "weak" spiritually? Why you have no power over your fleshly impulses? Why you struggle to do what is right? etc. The reason is because you have neglected God's Word!

There are a lot of spiritually malnourished, dehydrated, weak Christians struggling with their walk with the Lord. The reason: they are not consuming God's Nutritional Word.

My Service Diminishes

If my faith is weak, and my fellowship with God is distant, it stands to reason that my service for Him will also be limited or non-existent.

- **What happens when I read & heed God's Word?** ***My Faith Grows (Rom. 10:17) and every area of my life becomes blessed. David describes some of those blessings in Psalm 119.***

Psalm 119 is the Word of God chapter of the Bible. Almost every verse of this longest chapter in the Bible has something to say about God's word.
In the original Hebrew Bible, this "wisdom psalm concerning the law of the Lord is an alphabetic acrostic in which each stanza of eight verses is devoted to (22) successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet, each verse of a particular stanza beginning with the same letter." (Ryrie note)

When I read & heed the Bible…

1. My Conscience is Clean (v.6)

Every Day I must Read God's Word because…

I need a <u>Cleansing Bath</u> from the filth & defilement of sin
(Psalm 119:9)

"A clean conscience makes for a soft pillow" (Spurgeon)

Joh 13:17 – "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. "
Conversely, If ye know these things, unhappy are ye if ye do not do them!

Don't sin against your conscience

2. My Worship is Right (v.7; 62)

Since our worship is to be based upon "truth" (Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.)
And since God's Word is truth (Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.)
We cannot worship Him rightly without a proper knowledge and obedience to His Word

3. My Conduct is Pure (v.9; 11)

Jesus said to His disciples: Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (John 15:3)

"This Book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this Book"

4. My Soul receives Counsel (v.24)

No Christian should ever need a secular Psychiatrist. God's Word is the all sufficient counselor.

2Ti 3:16-17: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (what is right), for reproof (what is not right), for correction (how to make it right), for instruction in righteousness (how to keep it right) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

a. My discouraged Heart is Revived (v.25; 93)

Revival comes from God's Spirit taking God's Word and bringing repentance and faith through it's convicting power.

b. My Grieving Heart is Strengthened (v.28)

5. My Shackles to Sin are Freed (v.45)

True freedom comes to the one whose sin is forgiven:
Ps 32:1 - Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Such liberty can only come as an acknowledgment of sin is made and genuine repentance occurs in one's heart

6. My Witness is Emboldened (v.46)

The more familiar you are with something, the more confidence you have in giving it to others.

7. My Wisdom is Increased (v.104)

To know all other subjects (math, science, secular history, language, etc.) cannot compare with knowing God's eternal Word. Becoming a Bible Scholar is the greatest acquisition of information you could ever obtain.

a. I become wiser than my enemies (v.98)

b. I become more insightful than my teachers (v.99)

c. I become more mature than my elders (v.100)

8. My Path is Directed (v.105)

I need <u>Guidance & Direction</u> into God's Will for my day
(Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)

"To know God's will is life's greatest knowledge; To do God's will is life's greatest privilege." (Bob Jones Sr.)

Guidance for life can only be yours through an accurate knowledge for God's will as found only in God's Word.

9. My Heart becomes Joyful (v.111, 143, 162)

The more you read the Bible, the more your want to read it. It becomes a greater joy the more acquainted you become with it.

10. My Mind is Enlightened (v.130)

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

1. A clean life (Ps.119:9, 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)

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

b. 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)

1). Ask God to "incline your heart" (give you a desire) for the Word (v. 36)
David considered the Word to be:
   a) Better than . . . "gold and silver" (v. 72; cp. v. 127, 162)
   b) Sweeter than honey to my mouth" (v. 103)

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

c. 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)