

## Pray and seek the help of the Holy Spirit

**John 16:13** – "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**1 Cor. 2:10, 14** – For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

This book will keep you from sin – or sin will keep you from this Book!

Either the Bible is transforming you into the image of Christ – or the world is squeezing you into its mold!

## Why study the Bible?

1) Personal Bible study leads to spiritual growth

**1 Peter 2:2** (NIV) – Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

2) Personal Bible study leads to spiritual maturity

**Hebrews 5:11-14** – Concerning him we have much to say, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners. for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.

3) Personal Bible study leads to spiritual effectiveness

**2 Tim 3:16-17** – All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

## How To Study the Bible

### What is Personal Bible Study

Systematic: certain steps in a certain order to produce consistent, reliable results

- 1) Observation: what do I see? (many see but do not observe)
- 2) Interpretation: what does it mean? (understanding)
- 3) application: what do I do with it? How do I live?

Approach God's Word with the goal of growing inwardly to reproduce externally

### Study must be personal

1. Think independently (most people just rearrange your biases)
2. Evaluate difference opinions (commentaries)
3. Intimate joy of discovery
4. Causes you to fall in love with the author

### Observation – what do I see?

Psalm 119:18 – Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your Law.

- 1) Who: women at the well (John 4)
- 2) What: happening (a miracle?, a story?, and sermon?, a command?)
- 3) Where: what is the setting?
- 4) When: pre-crucifixion, time of day, Mark 6 – early morning)
- 5) why: why did the Holy Spirit include this (John's 7 signs)
- 6) Therefore: so what? How well do I listen to Christ's words?

### Interpretation: what does it mean? (understanding) Interpretation is ONE – application MANY

- 1) content: what you observe (the more time here, the better the interpretation)
- 2) context: what goes before and what follows (Phil 2:12-13)
- 3) comparison: concordance (words), **TSK** (contextual themes by phrase)
- 4) culture: long hair on a man, foot-washing, baptism for the dead (**Bible dictionary**)
- 5) Consultation: Bible atlas, Commentaries, Bible versions, Alfred Edershiem

### Application: so what? (the goal is not information – but transformation)

- 1) Is there an example to follow (1 Cor. 11:1)
- 2) Is there a sin to avoid?
- 3) Is there a promise to claim?
- 4) Is there a prayer to repeat?
- 5) Is there a command to obey?

## How To Study the Bible

- 6) Is there a condition to meet? (John 15:7)
- 7) Is there a passage to memorize?