

Spiritual Disciplines #2:

God's Word

The object of this session is to produce a greater spiritual hunger for the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 32:46, 47

Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day. They are not just idle words for you – they are your life.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WORD

1. We should have an attitude of desperation about the Word of God. (Matthew 4:4)
 - The first recorded fruit of the new birth was devotion to God's Word. (Acts 2:42)
2. We should have an attitude of desire about the Word of God. (Acts 17:11; I Peter 2:2)

I Peter 2:2

Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

3. We should have an attitude of delight about the Word of God. (Jeremiah 15:16)

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD

1. The Word reveals Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:17

*[I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the **knowledge of him.***

Ephesians 4:13

*... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

2. The Word reveals God's plan and will.

- We hear God's voice through His Word. (John 10:27; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- God's Word gives direction to our lives. (Psalm 119:105)

3. The Word of God is essential for 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.*

- God's Word gives us faith. (Romans 10:17)
- God's Word sanctifies us. (Psalm 119:9,11)
- The Word is God's primary instrument to transform our minds.

Romans 12:2

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

4. It's essential for spiritual **effectiveness**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work.*

- God's Word makes us fruitful. (Mark 4:20)

1 Corinthians 2:12-14, NIV

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

THE PRACTICE OF GOD'S WORD

1. We **read** the Bible in our devotional life.

John Wesley gave several tips for effective Bible reading.¹

- Set apart time every day for the purpose of reading.
- Read with a determination to know the whole will of God and with a steady resolution to do it.
- Pray seriously and earnestly before consulting the Word of God.
- Pause frequently and examine your heart and life by what you read.
- Whatever light you receive should be used immediately. Let there be no delay. Whatever you resolve, begin to execute the first moment you can.

2. We **meditate** on the Bible in our devotional life. (Psalm 1:2, 3)

The goal of biblical meditation is to *renew* the mind by filling it with God's Word.

3. We **confess** the Bible in our devotional life. (Joshua 1:8)

4. We **memorize** the Bible in our devotional life.

The following are some Tips for Memorization.²

¹ John Wesley, Preface to Explanatory Notes upon the Old Testament.

- Memorize verses that relate to what God is currently saying to you.
 - Read the verse aloud and write it out, many times if necessary.
 - Write out the verse with the reference on a “flash card.”
 - Always memorize verses word perfect.
 - Emphasize key words in the verse when quoting.
5. We **study** the Bible in our devotional life. (II Tim. 3:16, 17)
 6. We obey the word of God. (James 1: 22, 23)

We are accountable for God’s Word. (Mark 4:24)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following practices do you tend to be more inclined to: reading, meditating, confessing, memorizing, or studying? Why? Which one do you practice less often? Why?
2. Discuss your spiritual goals with your “buddy”
 - Where do you want to be spiritually a year from now?
 - How are you going to rearrange your schedule or priorities in your life in order to accomplish your objectives in the study of the Word?

HOMEWORK

Choose one of the following:

1. Find **five** Bible verses that address a main area in your life that you need to increase your faith (e.g. healing, marriage, salvation of a loved one, finance). Memorize **one** of them.
2. Read Psalms 119. Choose one verse from that chapter to memorize.

² Modified from Scripture Memory, Your Key to Success, Monica Best, <http://www.fsbcdc.org>.