

# How to Make Your Bible Come Alive (Psalm 119)

*“Lord, from the cowardice that dare not face new truth; from the laziness that is contented with half truth; from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver us.” – Prayer from a Kenyan Christian*

## I. YOU MUST APPRECIATE THE VIRTUES OF THE WORD OF GOD

### A. THE BIBLE IS A TIMELESS BOOK (PSALM 119:89, 152)

*“All of the Bible's enemies have not torn one hole in its holy vesture, nor stolen one flower from its wonderful garden, nor diluted one drop of honey from its abundant hive, nor broken one string of its thousand-stringed harp, nor drowned one sweet word in infidel ink.” – Robert G. Lee*

*I Peter 1:25, “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”*

### B. THE BIBLE IS A TRUTHFUL BOOK (PSALM 119:142, 151, 160)

*John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

*I Corinthians 14:37-38, <sup>37</sup> If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. <sup>38</sup> But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”*

*II Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration (God breathed) of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”*

*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.”*

*II Peter 1:21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

### C. THE BIBLE IS A TREASURED BOOK (PSALM 119:72, 103, 127)

## II. YOU MUST ASSIMILATE THE VITALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

*Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is quick (ALIVE), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

*John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*

### A. PRAY OVER IT (PSALM 119:12)

1. It will open your eyes. (Psalm 119:18)

*Luke 24:45, “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,”*

2. It will stir your heart (Psalm 119:36)

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*Luke 24:32, "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"*

3. It will enlighten your mind (Psalm 119:73)

## **B. PONDER IT (PSALM 119:15, 147-148)**

*When you read a passage, ask these questions:*

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

## **C. PEN IT DOWN**

## **D. PRESERVE IT (PSALM 119:11, 16)**

## **E. PRACTICE IT (PSALM 119:1-5)**

*"If you want to know more of the Word of God, you must first obey the part you already know." – Rogers*

*"It's not the part of the Bible I don't understand that gives me a hard time. It's the part I do understand."  
– Mark Twain*

## **F. PROCLAIM IT (PSALM 119:13, 27, 46, 172)**

## **III. YOU CAN NOW APPROPRIATE THE VALUES OF THE WORD OF GOD**

### **A. IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF VICTORY (PSALM 119:45)**

### **B. IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF GROWTH (PSALM 119:32)**

*I Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

### **C. IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF JOY (PSALM 119:54, 111)**

### **D. IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF POWER (PSALM 119:28)**

### **E. IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF GUIDANCE (PSALM 119:105)**

## How to Study Your Bible – PART 1 (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

### I. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE SOUNDLY INDOCTRINATED (DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5)

#### A. MONOTHEISM IS A FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE (DEUTERONOMY 6:4)

*Acts 5:42, "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*

*II Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

#### B. SOUND DOCTRINE PRODUCES GODLY BEHAVIOR (DEUTERONOMY 6:5)

*Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

### II. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE DAILY DESIGNATED (DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7)

### III. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE POST-MEDITATED (DEUTERONOMY 6:8-9)

#### A. WRITE IT DOWN AND BRING IT WITH YOU.

#### B. MAKE A LIST OF BEHAVIORAL CHANGES BASED ON A PRECEPT.

#### C. LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING IT UP IN CONVERSATION

1. Three things will happen when you talk to others about what you read in your devotions:
  - a. The more opportunities you have to talk about what you read in your daily devotions, the more **that precept will solidify in your mind** and the less likely the devil will be able to snatch it away from you.
  - b. The more you talk about it, the more **you challenge others to begin reading and meditating on the Bible** as well.
  - c. The more you talk about it with people who already do meditate on the Bible, the more **they will add to that thought and expand your understanding of it**. Me and my father-in-law constantly bounce ideas off of each other.

*"People talk about the things they know about." – unknown*

*Psalm 1:1-3, "1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

## How to Study Your Bible – Part 2 (Psalm 119)

### I. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE PRAYERFUL PREPARED (PSALM 119:12, 18-19, 27, 33-34)

- A. PRAY THAT GOD WOULD OPEN YOUR EYES (PSALM 119:18)
- B. UNDERSTAND YOUR CITIZENSHIP IS NOT OF THIS EARTH (PSALM 119:19A)
- C. UNDERSTAND THAT GOD CAN HIDE TRUTH FROM YOU (PSALM 119:19B)

*I Corinthians 2:7, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"*

*Matthew 25:28-29, <sup>28</sup> Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."*

*I John 2:18-19, <sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*

### II. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE CHRIST SEEKING (PSALM 119:2, 10, 114)

#### A. THE BIBLE IS CENTERED AROUND CHRIST

*John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*

#### B. WE OUGHT TO SEEK CHRIST IN EVERY VERSE WE READ

*Mark 8:12, "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign?"*

*I Corinthians 1:22-23, <sup>22</sup> For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: <sup>23</sup> But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"*

*I Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."*

*II Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

#### PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Begin your Bible Study praying that God will open your eyes that you may see wondrous things and that He will captivate your soul.
- 2) Begin with the understanding that the Bible is written to the spirit, not the carnal mind and have the attitude of complete dependence on God's Holy Spirit to give you understanding.
- 3) Begin your Bible study with a fear of God that understands that the wrong attitude can cause God to hide His truth from you.
- 4) In every Book, every chapter, every verse, every precept and every word, seek the Lord Jesus Christ.

# The Right Results Of Personal Bible Study (Psalm 119)

## I. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE PURIFYING (PSALM 119:6-9)

### A. THE RESULT OF RESPECT (PSALM 119:6)

1. The word **respect** is from the Greek word nabat (naw-bat'). It means to look intently at; by implication, to regard with pleasure, favor or care. Giving cause to behold, consider, regard with great respect.
2. Four words stick out to me in this definition: favor, care, behold and respect.
3. **FAVOR** – David didn't read the scriptures out of duty, but he did it with a great desire.
4. **CARE** – David took care in reading God's Word. He didn't rush through it to fulfill his Bible reading schedule.
5. **BEHOLD** – I think of this word as an attitude word. David read with awe and amazement. As David read the Word of God, he did so always with the understanding that what he was reading was a supernatural Book.

*1 Thessalonians 2:13, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."*

*1 Corinthians 3:1, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."*

*1 Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."*

6. **RESPECT** – This is not just lip service. Some people think that if they stand when the Bible is read, this is respecting God's Word. Some people think that placing another book on top of the Bible is disrespect.

### B. THE PATTERN FOR PRAISE (119:7)

### C. THE CONDITION FOR CLEANSING (119:9)

## II. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE PRODUCTIVE

### A. IT PRODUCES CONVICTION (PSALM 119:11, 17, 38-40, 59-60, 104, 120, 128)

### B. IT PRODUCES DIRECTION (PSALM 119:3-5, 35, 67, 133)

*Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

### C. IT PRODUCES WORSHIP (PSALM 119:46-48, 54, 108, 137, 171-175)

1. The word **worship** is derived from the Old English word **weorthscipe**. We get an accurate understanding of the word in that perspective. It is the assigning of worth or value to something or someone.
2. You will notice that David places value on God often in these verses (119:14, 72, 111).
3. Notice also that David doesn't just praise God during church services (119:62, 164).

*John 4:23, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."*

## III. BIBLE STUDY OUGHT TO BE PROFITABLE (II TIMOTHY 3:15-17)

### A. DOCTRINE – WHAT IS RIGHT

### B. REPROOF – WHAT IS WRONG

### C. CORRECTION –HOW TO GET RIGHT

### D. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS – HOW TO STAY RIGHT