

HOW TO MAKE 2017 SUCCESSFUL

LESSONS FROM JOSHUA 1



Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



*I. The Word of God must be the object of our
focused thinking.*





TM

1. To Get a Grip on the Bible...

We have to HEAR it.



Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.





1. To Get a Grip on the Bible...

We have to READ it.



Revelation 1:3

“Happy is the one who reads this book and obeys what is written in it.”



3. To Get a Grip on the Bible...

Study it.



2 Timothy 2:15

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly
dividing the word of truth.*



4. To Get a Grip on the Bible...

Memorize it.



Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.



Proverbs 7:2-3

Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.



Psalm 119:72

*The law from your mouth is more precious to me than
thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*



5. To Get a Grip on the Bible...

Meditate on it.



HOW DO YOU PRAY THE LECTIO DIVINA?

Lectio Divina is a practice of **scriptural reading**. It involves meditating on a passage of the Bible, preferably the **Gospel of the day**.

Steps to pray:



1. INVOKE

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide the reading of the Scripture.



2. READ

Ask yourself: What is this passage saying? If you can, use a Bible commentary.



3. MEDITATE

In a moment of silence, try to listen to the voice of God.



4. PRAY

Begin to dialogue with the Lord and open yourself to his will.



5. CONTEMPLATE

Listen closely with your heart and put into practice what he has told you.

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



Lectio Divina

Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image*, (Zondervan, 2001), 96-97.

“ The ancient art of *lectio divina*, or sacred reading, was introduced to the West by the Eastern desert father John Cassian early in the fifth century.

It consists of four elements.

1. *Lectio (reading)*. Select a very short text and ingest it by reading it several times. I normally choose a verse or a brief passage from the chapters I read from the Old and New Testaments in my morning Bible reading.
2. *Meditatio (meditation)*. Take a few minutes to reflect on the words and phrases in the text you have read. Ponder the passage by asking questions and using your imagination.
3. *Oratio (prayer)*. Having internalized the passage, offer it back to God in the form of personalized prayer.
4. *Contemplatio (contemplation)*. For the most of us, this will be the most difficult part, since it consists of silence and yieldedness in the presence of God. Contemplation is the fruit of the dialogue of the first three elements; it is the communion that is born out of our reception of divine truth in our minds and hearts.

***WHY WE SHOULD MEDITATE ON
SCRIPTURE:***

- 1. It is the key to becoming like Christ.*



Proverbs 4:23

“Your life is shaped by your thoughts.”



Romans 12:2

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”



1 Corinthians 3:18

“As we contemplate the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness.”



***WHY WE SHOULD MEDITATE ON
SCRIPTURE:***

2. It is the key to answered prayer.



John 15:7

“If you live your life in Me, and My words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like, and it will come true for you.”



*WHY WE SHOULD MEDITATE ON
SCRIPTURE:*

3. It is the key to successful living.



Joshua 1:8

“Meditate on the word day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

