



COMMUNITY OF FAITH

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION THE DISCIPLINE OF STUDY

1. Importance of Bible Study.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
Romans 12:2

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. **Hebrews 4:12-13** (ESV)

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:32**

2. What is Study?

- It is a specific type of **experience** in which, through **systematic** analysis of the word of God, we move our **thought process** towards the **character of Jesus Christ**.

3. Methods for Studying the Bible

Main Characters	Prophecies	Themes	God - Man Relationship
Parables	Gospels	Jesus' Teachings	Miracles
Prayers	Book by Book	Chronology	Doctrines

4. Keys to studying the Bible

a) Examination

- * Concentrate carefully on reading.

b) Investigation

- * Analyze the context in which the passage is found.
- * Look for other passages or books that shed light on the topic you are studying.

9 See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. **Zechariah 3:9** (NIV)

Come to Him—the living stone—who was rejected by people but accepted by God as chosen and precious. **1 Peter 2:4** (Voice)

"(You are) ...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." **Ephesians 2:20** (NIV)

THE STONE = JESUS.

*"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders... He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth." **Revelation 5:6** (NIV)*

7 EYES = 7 SPIRITS.

*When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" **John 1:36** (NIV)*

THE STONE → JESUS → THE LAMB OF GOD

*"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord (1) will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom (2) and of understanding (3), the Spirit of counsel (4) and of might (5), the Spirit of the knowledge (6) and fear of the Lord (7)." **Isaiah 11:1-2** (NIV)*

Jesus, who is The Rock and The Lamb, has The 7 Spirits of Isaiah 11.

*9 See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. **Zechariah 3:9** (NIV)*

Tools for Study

- Study Bible
- Concordance
- Bible Dictionary
- Biblical Commentaries
- Study Guide / Recommended Books
- Spiritual Journal

c) Reflection

- * To understand the importance and application of what you have studied.

Reflection suggestions

- * Meditation

*The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **John 6:63** (ESV)*

*"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." **John 4:24** (NIV)*

- * Paraphrase

Rewrite in your own words what a passage says.

d) Memorization

- * Learn, word by word, the key verse of the study.

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads." **Deuteronomy 11:18** (NIV)

e) Application

- Put into practice what you learned in your last study session.

f) Discussion

- Interact with other people who study the Bible.

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

16 For, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ." **1 Corinthians 2:14, 16** (NIV)