



## Applied Faith Men's Bible Study

South Hills Baptist Church

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### **Reading Our Bible**

If someone wrote you love letters and you loved that person would you read those letters or just let them catch dust? As believers we must never neglect God's love letter to His children. Many Christians ask why should I read the Bible? We have time to do just about everything else, but when it comes to reading Scripture we say well look at the time I have to go.

You must set a daily time when you're in God's Word. Instead of watching TV in the morning get in His Word. Instead of scrolling up and down Facebook and Instagram like the daily news open your Bible because it's more important. You can even read the Bible online at Bible Gateway and Bible Hub. We can live without God's Word; we just can't do it very well, at all. It doesn't take long to figure out that we sin more when we don't spend time in his Word and seek Him in prayer. There are sites that are packed with a bunch of verses, but that doesn't mean just because you come to a site, you should neglect God's Word. It is essential that you read the Bible as a whole.

Start from the beginning. Challenge yourself and make a daily, weekly, or monthly challenge. Dust off those cobwebs and make sure you don't start tomorrow because that will turn into next week. Let Jesus Christ be your motivation and start today, it will change your life! Take that motivation and turn it into a discipline that is ongoing for the rest of your life.

Why should we read the Bible on a daily basis? I'm glad you asked. Here are but a few reasons, and because we are a men's Bible study that has its foundation in the Word of God, scriptures that support the different reasons why we should read God's Glorious Word each and every day has been included.

### 1. It helps us live life better.

Matthew 4:4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Proverbs 6:23 For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,

Job 22:22 Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.

### 2. To do God's will: It helps you obey God and not sin.

Psalms 119:9-12 How can a young man keep his behavior pure? By guarding it in accordance with your word. I have sought you with all of my heart; do not let me drift away from your commands. I have stored what you have said in my heart, so I won't sin against you. Blessed are you, LORD! Teach me your statutes.

Psalm 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be supplanted.

Psalm 40:7-8 Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."

### 3. To guard yourself from false teachings and false prophets.

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 24:24-26 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Remember, I have told you ahead of time. So then, if someone says to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe him.

### 4. To spend time with the Lord.

Proverbs 2:6-7 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

### 5. You will be convicted more of sin.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## 6. To know more about our beloved Savior Jesus, the cross, the gospel, etc.

John 14:6 Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me."

John 5:38-41 and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you. "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. "Your approval means nothing to me."

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

## 7. To give us encouragement.

Romans 15:4-5 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

Psalm 119:50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Joshua 1:9 I have commanded you, Be strong and courageous! Don't tremble or be terrified, because the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and replied, "This is impossible for mere humans, but not for God; all things are possible for God."

8. So we don't start getting comfortable: Make sure Christ is always first in your life. You don't want to drift from Him.

Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Romans 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Proverbs 28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.

9. It's exciting and it makes you want to praise the Lord more.

Psalm 103:20-21 Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Psalm 56:10-11 In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?

Psalm 106:1-2 Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. Who can speak of the mighty deeds of the LORD, Or can show forth all His praise?

## 10. You will know God better.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, thirst for the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow in your salvation. Surely you have tasted that the Lord is good!

## 11. For better fellowship with other believers: With Scripture you can teach, bear each other's burdens , give biblical advice, etc.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Because of this, comfort one another and build one another up just as you have done.

## 12. To defend the faith.

1 Peter 3:14-16 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

2 Corinthians 10:5 and all their intellectual arrogance that oppose the knowledge of God. We take every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ.

### 13. To defend against Satan.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:16-17 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### 14. God's Word is eternal and the earth is not.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Psalms 119:89 Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Psalms 119:151-153 Yet you are near, LORD, and all your commands are true. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever. Look on my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law.

### 15. Hearing God's voice: His Word gives us direction.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to walk by, and a light to illumine my path.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

### 16. It helps us grow as believers.

Psalms 1:1-4 Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the Lord and reflects on his teachings day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He

succeeds in everything he does. Wicked people are not like that. Instead, they are like husks that the wind blows away.

Colossians 1:9-10 Since the day we heard these things about you, we have continued praying for you. This is what we pray: that God will make you completely sure of what he wants by giving you all the wisdom and spiritual understanding you need; 10 that this will help you live in a way that brings honor to the Lord and pleases him in every way; that your life will produce good works of every kind and that you will grow in your knowledge of God.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

### 17. It helps us serve God better.

2 Timothy 3:17 It gives the man who belongs to God everything he needs to work well for Him.

### 18. To use your time wisely instead of turning your mind to mush.

Ephesians 5:15-16 So then, be very careful how you live. Don't live like foolish people but like wise people. Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days.

### 19. For spiritual discipline.

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

1 Corinthians 9:27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

## 20.You will learn more about history.

Psalm 78:3-4 stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.

Hebrews 11:3-4 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

## Other reasons

It is the most popular and the most scrutinized book ever written.

Every chapter is showing something: Read thoroughly and you will see the bigger picture.

Many people throughout history have died for God's Word.

It will make you wiser.

**Reminder: Before you read tell God to speak to you through His Word.**

## **Application/Activity (From Abraham, Trusting God, Lesson #3)**

We all have relationships in our lives that are challenging to put it kindly. Generally we handle those relationships in one of two ways. First, we attempt to control the outcomes on our own. We try to manipulate the interactions for a somewhat positive outcome. That somewhat positive outcome can be as simple as it not turning into an argument. The other way we attempt to control the relationship is to avoid the other person at all costs. No interaction, no drama.

This week I challenge you to try something different. Trust God. How? I want you to pray for this personal relationship that you have that is broken or in need of repair. Earnestly pray that God will interject His loving ways into this relationship. Pray that this relationship will be restored. Pray that both hearts will be softened and that peace can come to both parties. If you read in Luke 11:5-13, you will see Jesus tells a parable of a neighbor requesting bread from a friend at midnight. Jesus speaks of “shameless persistence” (NLT) of why this friend was able to obtain three loaves of bread at midnight. Make your prayers for this relationship be akin to “shameless persistence”. Of course you first have to want this difficult relationship to be repaired. If you do not, you need to look within your Christian heart and ask why. Ask God to soften your heart and pray with shameless persistence for God to repair your relationship.

From Bible Reasons

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