

HOW TO READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.
(2 Timothy 2:15, AMPC)

STEP 1: START WITH A BIBLE TRANSLATION YOU UNDERSTAND

Good for Daily Reading: ESV (English Standard Version), NKJV (New King James Version), NLT (New Living Translation)

Good for Bible Study: AMPC (Amplified Classic), TPT (The Passion Translation)

Good for Contemporary Language: MSG (Message Paraphrase)

STEP 2: KEYS TO BIBLE STUDY

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the scriptures.

John 16:13 (TPT) But when the truth-giving Spirit comes, he will unveil the reality of every truth within you. He won't speak his own message, but only what he hears from the Father, and he will reveal prophetically to you what is to come.

*"Some people read their Bibles in Hebrew, some in Greek.
I like to read mine in the Holy Ghost."
- Smith Wigglesworth*

2 Peter 1:21 (TPT) You must understand this at the outset: Interpretation of scriptural prophecy requires the Holy Spirit, for it does not originate from someone's own imagination. No true prophecy comes from human initiative but is inspired by the moving of the Holy Spirit upon those who spoke the message that came from God.

2. Things to consider while you are studying.

A. Context

"Who is this written to?"

"What is the purpose of this writing?"

"What are the circumstance surrounding this written text?"

B. Culture

While we live in a Western culture, the Bible was written through those who lived in an Eastern culture. Their traditions and customs were much different than our own. The Bible was also written thousands of years ago. These are things we must remember when reading text.

C. Language

The Bible was written in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek. These languages were much different than English and were very descriptive in their meanings. Studying these languages will give you greater insight into the meaning of a passage or verse.

D. Literary Style

Although the Bible is one unified story, it is also made up of 66 books. Knowing the literary styles of the different books will help you to better understand the Bible.

*Example: Poetry, Wisdom, History, Law, etc.

E. How do I find out about context, culture, language, and literary style?

1. Context - Bible Commentaries
2. Culture - Bible Dictionary, Books on Bible Manners & Customs
3. Language - Bible Concordance, Bible Word Study Dictionary
4. Literary Style - Bible Commentaries, Bible Dictionary
5. Study Bible: If you are not interested in a large library, many of these facts can be found in a good Study Bible. (*NKJV Spirit-Filled Life Study Bible / NLT Life Applications Study Bible*)

3. Online Study Aids

A. There is no cost for the resources below:

1. YouVersion Bible App [App]



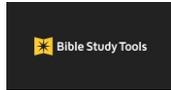
(*Bible translations, Devotionals, Bible reading plans*)

2. BibleGateway [Website and App]



(*Bible translations, Bible reading plans, Study helps*)

3. Bible Study Tools [Website and App]



(*Commentary, Concordance, Dictionary*)

4. The Bible Project [Website and Podcast]



(*Videos/discussions to explain Bible words, themes, books, etc.*)
*Excellent for children

5. The Bible App for Kids [App]



The Bible App
FOR KIDS

B. There is a cost for the resource below:

1. Logos Bible Software [Computer Program and App]



LOGOS

(*Bible translations, Devotionals, Bible reading plans, History, Commentaries, Concordance, Dictionaries, Maps, etc.*)