

STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD

1. Motivation for studying the Word of God

A) It's power surpasses miraculous occurrences!

Luke 16:29-31

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- The Word of God has greater power and influence than having a person rise from the dead and bring a message to you. So many times we feel that if only we could see something miraculous or spectacular so that our confidence would be increased. This scripture shows that those who think in such a way are totally mistaken.
- Matt. 27:42 let him come down from the cross and we will believe him. Would they really have believed him if he had?

B) Your attitude toward the word will determine your growth in Christ.

Mark 4:24 AMP

24 And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.

- Are you expecting a large return on a minimal effort?

C) Your regard for it will enable you to endure

Job 23:12

12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

- Job's regard for the words of God enabled him to endure.

D) We become partakers of His divine nature because of the promises found in the Word.

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- If we do not understand his promises, how will we grab hold of his divine nature?

E) It is expected of us

Heb 5:11-6:3 NIV

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to

learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

- We are all expected to be able to instruct others. If we do not learn the basic truths and increase from there, we will only be feeding on milk. Your growth will be stunted until you learn and apply the truths that you hear.

F.) Do you want rest for your soul?

Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and **learn** of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall **find rest unto your souls**. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Ephes. 4:17-24

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: [19] Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. [20] **But ye have not so learned Christ; [21] If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him,** as the truth is in Jesus: [22] That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; [23] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [24] And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2. How do I begin to study?

Each person will have their own unique way of accomplishing this. I am sharing the precepts that have helped me to learn and hopefully will be able to give you a starting point in which to start your studies.

A) Become familiar through regular reading of the whole Bible.

Deut 17:18-20 TEV

8 When he becomes king, he is to have a copy of the book of God's laws and teachings made from the original copy kept by the levitical priests. 19 He is to keep this book near him and read from it all his life, so that he will learn to honor the Lord and to obey faithfully everything that is commanded in it. 20 This will keep him from thinking that he is better than his fellow Israelites and from disobeying the Lord's commands in any way. Then he will reign for many years, and his descendants will rule Israel for many generations.

- You are not done if you have read the bible all the way through. Over and over again.

- This is important in getting the whole picture as well as putting yourself in a position for the Holy Spirit to be able to tie truths and principles together for you.
- Being familiar with the whole Word of God will prevent you from making conclusions based on a narrow context of scripture.

B) Begin with the basic truths in Heb. 6

- How familiar are you with these truths?
- Are you able to share them with someone else in a simple way?
- You will be surprised at how much more will be added to these truths even when you feel that you have a grasp on them.

C) You can do Character studies.

- David-what made him a man after God's own heart? How did he deal with his shortcomings? What did he accomplish? What principles from his life can be translated into your life?
- Abraham-What made him such a man of faith? Did he have shortcomings? What truths can be translated into your life?

D) Geographical studies

- A simple plural word made me look at my maps and gave me a revelation of a truth that I had wondered about for a long time. (Paul's eyes)
- You will understand how willing Abraham was to recover Lot, roughly 125 miles of pursuit!

E) Topical studies

- Study things that you feel you lack, things you don't feel that you understand, things that might be shortcomings in your life: love, anger, faithfulness, hatred, lust, fear, patience, etc.

F) Word studies (Acts 17:18)

NT:4691 a seed-picker (as the crow),

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

NT:4691 of men: "lounging about the market-place and picking up a subsistence by whatever may chance to fall from the loads of merchandise"

(from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, PC Study Bible formatted Electronic Database. Copyright © 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

NT:4691 (a figurative expression, literally 'one who picks up seed,' originally a reference to birds picking up seed, but figuratively applied to a person who is an information scavenger) one who is not able to say anything worthwhile in view of his miscellaneous collection of tidbits of information - 'foolish babblers'

(from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

NT:4691 It is said that the Athenians applied this name to those who made their living by collecting and selling refuse they found in the market places. Therefore, they were men of no account, low and contemptible persons.

(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

NT:4691 regarding people who spend their time around stores and markets to pick up scraps from the produce and live off them;

(from A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature, Third Edition. Copyright © 2000 by The University of Chicago. All rights reserved.)

NT:4691 Metaphorically it became used of a man who picks up scraps of information and retails them secondhand, a plagiarist, or of those who make a show, in unscientific style, of knowledge obtained from misunderstanding lectures. Prof. Ramsay points out that there does not seem to be any instance of the classical use of the word as a "babbler" or a mere talker. He finds in the word a piece of Athenian slang, applied to one who was outside any literary circle, an ignorant plagiarist. Other suggestions have been made, but without satisfactory evidence.

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

G) Doctrinal studies

- Healing
- Divorce and remarriage
- Women in ministry
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Structure of the church
- End times
- Predestination
- Church discipline
- Satan
- Grace

H) Areas that you question for one reason or another.

- Children of Israel-in bondage for 400 or 430 yrs.?
- Baptism for the dead
- Restoration of David's tabernacle

I) Book studies

- Study one particular book of the Bible-when was it written, main themes, does it contain more information than the rest of the scriptures, why was it written.