

# Basic Instructions for Bible Study

Bible study is a vital part of the Christian life. If you study God's Word faithfully, pray for understanding, and diligently apply Scripture to your daily walk, your life will change and increasingly glorify God.

We are called to transform our lives into the likeness of Christ. Paul wrote "Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son" (Romans 8:29). This conformity is a life long process. Paul went on to describe this process: "All of us, with faces uncovered, because we continue to reflect like mirrors the splendor of the Lord, are being transformed into likeness to Him, from one degree of splendor to another, since it comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Personal Bible study is life-changing and should be done systematically and consistently.

**The following guidelines are to help Bible Students develop a basic format to study the Bible.**

**1. Be Systematic and Consistent:**

Have a good system of study and follow it. Continue your study on a regular basis.

**2. Use only Original Investigation of the Bible:**

Use only the Bible, don't study about the bible, study the Bible itself.

**3. So it is Written:**

Write down your findings in your own words, It's an important part of the learning process.

**4. Application:**

Apply what you've learned to your daily life. The Scriptures are the means by which the Holy Spirit changes our lives.

**The Bible can only be fully understood with the aid of the Holy Spirit, so before you begin it is important to follow certain steps in preparation.**

Step 1. We should confess our sins to God. John tell us " If we confess our sins, He is faithful and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Step 2. Pray for understanding. Only by the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit can we fully understand the Scriptures. "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law...Let me understand the teaching of your precepts" (Psalm 119:12,18).

Step 3. Applying the Scriptures requires a willingness to obey. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to teach Christians truths from the Bible (John 14:26). When we engage in Bible study we must be obedient to that teaching. "The one who is willing to obey will receive God's instruction" (John 7:17).

## **The A, B, C's of Bible Study**

**Your Approach should be based on some basic understanding about the Bible and how to systematically study Gods Word.**

- A. The Bible is the literal word of God.
- B. The Bible is Gods means of revealing truth to His people
- C. The Bible is authoritative
- D. Scripture has only one meaning and should be taken literally in context
- E. Interpret a word in relation to its sentence and context
- F. Interpret a passage in harmony with its sentence and context
- G. When an inanimate object is used to describe a living being the statement may be considered figurative
- H. When an expression is out of character with the thing described, the statement may be considered to be figurative
- I. The principal parts and figures of a parable represent certain realities.
- J. Interpret the words of the prophets in their usual, literal and historical sense, unless the context or manner in which they are fulfilled clearly indicates symbolic meaning
- K. Interpret Scripture in its originated context
- L. Historical facts or events become symbols of spiritual truths only if the Scripture so designates them
- M. You must understand the Bible grammatically to understand it theologically
- N. A doctrine must include all that Scripture has to say about the subject
- O. A teaching merely implied in Scripture may be considered biblical when a comparison of relate passages supports the teaching
- P. Ask who are the people involved
- Q. Ask what happened, what ideas are expressed, what are the results
- R. Is there a sin for me to avoid
- S. Is there a promise from God for me to claim
- T. Is there an example for me to follow
- U. Is there a command for me to obey
- V. How can this passage increase my knowledge about God
- W. How can this passage or verse be applied in my life
- X. What observations can be made
- Y. What questions does the passage raises
- Z. How can I share what I've found with others

**Always keep on track and remember to make written notes that reflect:**

Observation of the message, interpretation of the message, the challenges it may offer you, the questions it ask or answers for you and how you can apply the message in your daily walk with Christ.