

Reaching our “Full” Potential *The Discipline of being in the Word of God #2*



Testimony by Drew Wagner.

Hebrews 4:12

, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

-2 Timothy 3:16,17, All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

-We are continuing in our series “Reaching our “Full” Potential and looking at the single greatest discipline we can hone in on is the knowing of God’s Word. Nothing can nor should substitute for it!!!! Sadly so many things do, busyness, reading other things like Fictions, novels, or watching TV, Sports, Etc. have replaced people being in the Word.

-No wonder that the church is so shallow, often compared to the Platte River “A mile wide and an inch deep.” I spoke in Africa and they said the very same about believers there that they were a mile wide and an inch deep.

-We learned last week to really gain a grasp of the word of God we need to do five significant things: Hear---Read---Study---Memorize---Meditate. Last week we covered the first two---Hearing and Reading---notes on the web site....Today we want to talk about the last three; The significance of Studying---Memorizing and Meditating on God’s Word.

-Study takes you beneath the surface of Scripture for an unhurried look of clarity and detail that’s normally missed by those who simply read the text. Author Jerry Bridges put it, “Reading gives us breadth, but study gives us depth.”

-Let’s look at two examples of a heart to study the Word of God:

-Ezra, in Ezra 7:10, “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Note four things in this text Ezra did: 1) Devoted himself 2) Studied the Word 3) Observed/practiced it 4) Taught His (God’s) statutes and ordinances to Israel.

-Paul, in 2 Tim. 4:13, The Apostle Paul is in prison and writing the last of many letters



to the NT church. “When you come bring the cloak, which I left at Troas, with Carpus and the books, especially the parchments.” These books and parchments most certainly included copies of the Scriptures. Friends, in the midst of Paul’s cold, dingy dungeon, the suffering warrior for the Lord wanted the comfort and stability that only the study of the Word of God can bring!

-What prevents us from the study of God’s word? RC Sproul said it painfully well, “Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull or boring, but because it is work. In other words we don’t study because we are lazy!

-All that is needed for study is simply a pencil and a piece of paper. We learn to go deeper in the text understanding the **purpose** of the writings. Keeping it in the **Context** the author had intended it to be. Asking, What is the **Historical** and **Grammatical** ramifications of the text?

-2 Tim. 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

Hear—Read—Study.....Memorize

Memorizing and it’s benefits:

1. Supplies Spiritual Power:

- a. **Psalm 119:9,11**, “How can a young man keep his way pure, by keeping it according to Thy Word. Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.
- b. **Col. 3:2**, “Set your mind on the things above, not on earthly things.”
- c. **Eph. 6:17**, “It’s the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” The one and only offensive weapon in our battle arsenal against the evil one and his allies the world and the flesh.

2. Memorization Strengthens your faith

- a. Pr. 22:17-19
- b. 1 Samuel 2:30, “Those who honor Me, I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.”

3. Memorization equips you in Witnessing and Counseling

4. Memorization is a means of God’s guidance for your life: Ps. 119:24, “Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.

How do we get started memorizing? “**Topical Memory System**” beginning with the Five Assurances:

1. Assurance of Salvation: 1 John 5:11-13
2. Assurance of Answered Prayer: John 16:24, John 15:7



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3. Assurance of Victory: 1 Cor. 10:13
4. Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9
5. Assurance of Guidance: Proverbs 3:5,6

-Topic----Reference----Vs.----Reference! 3 x 5 card, word perfect

-Hearing----Reading----Studying----Memorizing

Meditation: Not some Eastern mysticism but “The chewing on Scripture, the pondering of His Word, as a cow chews on her cud.” Getting all the nutrients on it one can.

-Ps. 119:97, “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.”

-Christian meditation involves filling your mind with God and truth! **“It is the deep thinking on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture for the purposes of understanding, application, and prayer.”**

Let’s look at:

1. Joshua 1:8 and the promise of Success, “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

2. Psalm 1:1-3, Result of meditation is Stability, Fruitfulness, Perseverance, and prosperity.

3. Psalm 119:98-99, “Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever within me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.”

Some methods for meditation:

1. Repeat the vs. in different ways
2. Rewrite it in your own words
3. Look for applications of the text
4. Pray through the text
5. Don’t rush—take time to ponder/chew on!

Friends, grasping God’s word is so vital we must **“HEAR, READ, STUDY, MEMORIZE, MEDITATE AND THEN APPLY!”**



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Close: James 1:22-25, underline.....know....when we apply God's Word to our daily life.....we shall be blessed in what he does.