

BIBLE STUDY

1. Introduction.

- a. Play The Bill Gaither Trio, “Input/Output (The Computer Song).”
- b. Share how the new Christian begins to build a library in his soul through Bible study.

2. God designed us in such a way that we cannot function properly without the Bible.

- a. **Dt 8:3** 3 [Yahweh] humbled you [Israel], let you be hungry, and fed you with manna [a metaphor for his word] that you did not know nor did your fathers know [it derives from God not man], that he might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone [physical food], but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh [spiritual food].
 - (1) Just as we need physical food every day, so also we need spiritual food every day. Bible study is how we eat spiritually.
 - (2) God prepares a meal for us every day, but he won’t force his meal down our throats. We’ve got to sit down at his table, grab our fork, and dig in.
- b. **Job 23:12** 12 I [Job] have not departed from the commandment of [God’s] lips. I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.
 - (1) It was because Job treasured God’s word more than physical food that he became blameless and upright [in phase two].
 - (a) **Job 1:1** 1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.
- c. **Dt 32:46-47** 46 Take to heart all the words by which I [Moses] am warning you [Israel] today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. 47 For it is no empty [pointless] word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.
 - (1) Bible study isn’t pointless. In fact our very life depends on Bible study.
 - (2) It is by God’s word that we are able to live long in the promised land of blessing.
- d. **Dt 31:11-13** 11 When all Israel comes to appear before Yahweh your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear Yahweh your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear Yahweh your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.
 - (1) Bible study is for everyone.

3. God wants us to study the Bible every single day of our lives.

- a. **Dt 17:18-19** 18 When [the king] sits on the throne of his kingdom, he will write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 It will be with him, and he will read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes.
- b. “Regularity counts for more in Bible study than most people fancy. The spasmodic student, who at certain seasons gives a great deal of time to the study of the Word, and

at other seasons quite neglects it, even for days at a time, does not achieve the results that he does who plods on regularly day by day.”¹

- c. “No one who has not tried it realizes how much can be accomplished by setting apart a fixed portion of each day—it may not be more than fifteen or thirty minutes, but it surely should be an hour—for Bible study, and keeping it sacredly for that purpose, under all circumstances.”²
- d. New Zealand homes should be full of Bible study.
 - (1) **Dt 6:6-7** 6 These words that I [Moses] command you [Israel] today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise.

4. God wants us to study the whole Bible, not just the parts we like.

- a. Read the entire Bible at least every three years.
- b. Use different versions, such as the Amplified version, the Phillips New Testament, or The Message.
- c. Don’t neglect the Old Testament or the “boring” parts of the Bible.
- d. “Some years ago I determined to read the AV through every year, the RV through every year, and the New Testament in Greek through every year. It has proved exceedingly profitable, and I would not willingly give it up.”³

5. Because Bible study is so important, we must give it our best effort.

- a. **Ezr 7:10** 10 Ezra had set his heart to study the law of Yahweh, to do it, and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.
 - (1) There needs to be a time in every believer’s life when they “set their heart” to study God’s word.
- b. The early hours of the day are the best for Bible study.
 - (1) “It is almost the unanimous opinion of those who have given this subject careful attention, that the early hours of the day are the best for Bible study, if they can be secured free from interruption. It is well, wherever possible, to lock yourself in and lock the world out, when you are about to give yourself up to the study of the Bible.”⁴
- c. Bible study requires lots of hard work and deep thinking.
 - (1) “The reason why many get so little out of their Bible reading is simply because they are not willing to think. Intellectual laziness lies at the bottom of a large percent of fruitless Bible reading. People are constantly crying for new methods of Bible study, but what many of them wish is simply some method of Bible study by which they can get all the good out of the Bible without work. If someone could tell lazy Christians some method of Bible study whereby they could put the sleepest ten minutes of the day, just before they go to bed, into Bible study, and

¹ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

² R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

³ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

⁴ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

get the profit out of it that God intends His children shall get out of the study of His Word, that would be just what they desire. But it can't be done. Men must be willing to work and work hard, if they wish to dig out the treasures of infinite wisdom and knowledge and blessing which He has stored up in His Word. A business friend once asked me in a hurried call to tell him 'in a word' how to study his Bible. I replied, 'Think.'⁵

6. Use a methodical, systematic approach to Bible study, not a random approach.

- a. "Nothing is more important for our own mental, moral and spiritual development, or for our increase in usefulness, than Bible study. But not all Bible study is equally profitable. Some Bible study is absolutely profitless."⁶
- b. Read 2-3 good books or take a course on Bible study methods. We suggest:
 - (1) Howard and William Hendricks, *Living by the Book*.
 - (2) Kay Arthur, David Arthur, Pete De Lacy, *How to Study Your Bible*.
 - (3) R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.
 - (4) Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Howard Hendricks, "How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor": <https://courses.dts.edu/register/how-to-read-the-bible-registration/>.
- c. Methodical Bible study is not "unspiritual."
- d. Methodical Bible study is how we come to understand "the whole counsel of God."
 - (1) **Ac 20:27** 27 I [Paul] did not shrink from declaring to you [Ephesian elders] the whole counsel of God.
- e. Read and re-read.
 - (1) "The way you build real, lasting convictions is to read, study, and meditate on the same passages over and over again until they finally seep down into your spiritual bloodstream and become part of your DNA."⁷
- f. Take different approaches: book study, topical study, and the Bible in course.
 - (1) "It would be well to have three methods of study in progress at the same time: first, the study of some book; second, the study of topics (perhaps topics suggested by the book studies); third, the study of the Bible in course. Every other method of study should be supplemented by studying the Bible in course."⁸

7. Focus your study on the Bible itself, not books about the Bible.

- a. The Bible alone is the inspired, inerrant word of God.
 - (1) **Dt 4:2** 2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of Yahweh your God that I command you.
 - (2) "The author [R. A. Torrey] can well remember the time when he had more appetite for books about the Bible than he had for the Bible itself, but with increasing study there has come increasing love for the Book. Bearing in mind

⁵ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

⁶ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

⁷ Steve Shadrach paraphrasing Dr. Adrian Rogers in *The God Ask: A Fresh, Biblical Approach to Personal Support Raising*, Kindle ed. (CMM Press), Kindle Locations 848-850.

⁸ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

who the author of the Book is, what its purpose is, what its power is, what the riches of its contents are, will go far toward stimulating a love and appetite for the Book.”⁹

- b. The Bible is sufficient for all matters of life and godliness.
 - (1) **2 Pe 1:3-4** 3 [God’s] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature....
- c. For those with ears to hear, the Bible is generally understandable.
 - (1) You don’t need a seminary degree or Bible college certificate to know and understand the Bible.
 - (2) “If God spare me life, ere many years I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of Scripture than you do [as a grown Catholic].”¹⁰
 - (3) “We cannot all be profound students of nature; we can all be profound students of Scripture. Many an otherwise illiterate person has a marvelous grasp of Bible truth. It was acquired by study. There are persons who have studied little else, who have studied the Scriptures, by the hour, daily, and their consequent wisdom is the astonishment and sometimes dismay of scholars and theologians.”¹¹

8. Bible study leads to blessing, prosperity, and success in life, from God’s viewpoint.

- a. **Ps 1:1-3** 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. 2 But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
 - (1) Those who delight in God’s word will be blessed.
- b. **Jos 1:8** 8 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 good success.
 - (1) Those who meditate on God’s word will experience prosperity and success.
 - (2) We must study the Bible before we are able to meditate on it. You can’t mediate on what you don’t know and understand.
- c. **Pr 19:27** 27 Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
 - (1) If you neglect Bible study, you will pay for it.

⁹ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

¹⁰ William Tyndale, quoted in Will Durant, *Reformation*, 533.

¹¹ R. A. Torrey, *How to Study the Bible*.

Notes