

As we have already seen, reading the Word of God increases the infilling of the Holy Spirit within us. But more than that, the Word is the primary food for our spirit. Without the Word, the spirit becomes malnourished—just like the body cannot survive without food, our spirit cannot thrive without the Word.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Reading the Bible is what enables you to grow spiritually.

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

It is also through the Word that your mind is renewed.

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Moreover, the Bible contains the prophetic blueprint of your life. It offers comfort, correction, counsel, and direction.

Psalms 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

That's why no one can separate a life of salvation from the Word of God. A true believer must build their life around Scripture.

Two Main Ways to Read the Bible

When you begin to study the Bible, it's important to understand that there are two major approaches:

1. Reading to understand the whole Bible.

2. Contextual or thematic reading.

Both methods are necessary and complement each other. Reading the whole Bible gives you the full narrative of Scripture and helps you understand context. This broad perspective is essential for accurate interpretation and application.

To do this effectively, you must develop a daily discipline of reading. If you read about 6–7 chapters a day, you can finish the entire Bible in about six months. After finishing, repeat the process—again and again.

Contextual reading, on the other hand, is more focused and reflective. It often involves studying a specific topic, passage, or book of the Bible, and it's especially helpful when done under the guidance of a mentor or teacher. This approach requires thoughtful meditation and dependence on the Holy Spirit to reveal truth.

John 16:13 (NIV)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

Practical Steps for Reading Your Bible

1. **Have your own Bible.**

If you're a new believer, make sure your Bible includes both the Old and New Testaments—66 books in total.

2. **Set aside quiet time daily.**

Find a quiet place where you can focus without distractions.

3. **Keep a notebook and pen.**

Write down what you learn. These notes will help you reflect and grow over time.

4. **Pray before you read.**

Ask God to open your understanding and speak to you through His Word.

5. **Apply what you read.**

Don't just be a hearer—be a doer of the Word.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

It's also a good idea to study with others. Find a friend who loves the Bible and meet regularly to reflect on Scripture together. Avoid relationships that pull you away from God. Use this season of your life to pursue spiritual growth. Just like a newborn baby feeds multiple times a day to grow, you too must nourish your spirit daily with the Word.

Anchor Verses for Your Bible Reading Journey

Here are key scriptures you can memorize and meditate on as anchors in your journey of studying the Word:

Psalms 119:11 (ESV)

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

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.

May the Lord bless you richly as you grow in His Word.

Let the Bible be your daily bread, your compass, and your foundation.

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