

As we've already seen, reading the Word of God increases the fullness of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. The Bible is the primary nourishment for our souls — just as the body cannot survive without food, the spiritual life cannot thrive apart from God's Word.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

This truth reminds us that our survival and growth as believers depend on the Word. The Scriptures are the means by which we are fed, strengthened, and equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

## **Reading the Bible:**

➡ Nurtures spiritual growth

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2, ESV)

➡ Renews and transforms our minds

“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.” (Romans 12:2, ESV)

➡ Provides guidance, encouragement, and correction

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105, ESV)

➡ Reveals the will and purposes of God for our lives

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4, ESV)

This is why no believer can separate their life of salvation from a life devoted to the Word of God.

## **Two Key Approaches to Reading Scripture**

When you set out to read the Bible, it helps to understand two essential approaches:

## **1□ Reading to know the whole Bible**

This is foundational. To understand the context and message of any single passage, you need a broad grasp of the entire story of Scripture — the unfolding of God’s redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation.

If you read 6–7 chapters daily, you can read through the whole Bible in about six months. But don’t stop there. Continue reading it again and again, for the Word never runs out of depth.

➡ “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.” (Revelation 1:3, ESV)

## **2□ Reading by context or theme**

This involves studying specific books, chapters, or topics in greater depth. It often requires guidance from teachers or mature believers (see Acts 8:30–31) and careful reflection, allowing the Holy Spirit to

illuminate the text.

➡ “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26, ESV)

## How to Begin Reading Your Bible

### □ Have your own Bible

Ensure you have a complete Bible — both Old and New Testaments (66 books) — so that you can read the full counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

### □ Set aside quiet time daily

Make it a priority to have uninterrupted time for the Word. Jesus Himself withdrew to quiet places to pray and commune with the Father (Mark 1:35).

### □ Keep a notebook and pen

Write down insights, questions, and reflections to help you remember

and apply what you learn (Deuteronomy 6:6–9).

□ Begin with prayer

Ask God for wisdom and understanding. The psalmist prayed:

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

(Psalm 119:18, ESV)

□ Obey what you read

God blesses not just the hearing of the Word, but its practice.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

(James 1:22, ESV)

## **Additional Encouragement**

Reading Scripture with other believers can help you grow in understanding and accountability (Colossians 3:16). Seek out friendships with those who share your hunger for God's Word. Avoid company that leads you away from God's purposes, especially during this season of spiritual growth (Psalm 1:1-2).

Just as a newborn feeds many times a day to gain strength and grow, so must we feed on the Word of God daily and often.

### **Anchor Scriptures for Your Journey**

Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

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

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions 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 as you commit yourself to His Word, and may the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth.**

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