

Be Diligent In Reading The Word

1 Timothy 4:13 (NKJV)

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

The apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to make *reading* a priority, alongside exhortation and teaching. This instruction is not limited to pastors alone, but applies to every believer. Scripture consistently presents the Word of God as the primary means by which God shapes, matures, and establishes His people.

Sadly, many Christians do not enjoy *reading* the Word for themselves. They prefer to be *read to*. They do not enjoy *studying*; they prefer only to be *taught*. They do not enjoy *building personal conviction*; they prefer others to convince them. In short, many believers desire everything to be pre-chewed and

delivered to them by other people.

It is true that God uses human vessels—pastors, teachers, and evangelists—but God does not want His children to depend on people instead of Him. If you rely on others to do all the reading and studying for you, your faith will stand on human personalities rather than on God's Word. And when the person you depend on grows cold, compromises, or falls away, you will likely fall with them.

Your spiritual stability cannot be stronger than your personal relationship with Scripture.

The Bible calls every believer to be diligent in reading—not geography, mathematics, or politics—but the Word of God.

1. YOU GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT ROOM TO SPEAK TO YOU

When you read the Bible personally and quietly, divine reflections begin to arise in your heart. These are often the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit, teaching you directly through the Word.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

“But 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 things that I said to you.”

When listening to a preacher, you are receiving what the Holy Spirit has placed in *that person*. But when you read Scripture yourself, you encounter what the Holy Spirit wants to place *inside you*. You can pause, reflect, re-read, and meditate—allowing truth to sink deep into your spirit.

Psalms 119:130 (NKJV)

“The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

Personal Bible reading creates space for revelation, illumination, and transformation.

2. YOU GAIN SPIRITUAL CERTAINTY AND DISCERNMENT

A believer who reads Scripture personally develops confidence about what is true and what is false. You are no longer easily carried away by every new teaching.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

Personal study produces spiritual maturity. Without it, believers remain vulnerable to deception.

Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV)

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”

3. YOUR ABILITY TO CONNECT SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE INCREASES

The more you read, the more you begin to recognize how one verse explains another. You start to see the unity of God's revelation—from Genesis to Revelation.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Scripture interprets Scripture. This skill grows through consistent reading and meditation.

4. YOUR DESIRE TO KNOW GOD MORE DEEPLY INCREASES

Every verse you read stirs hunger for more. The Word awakens spiritual appetite.

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

The Bible stops being just a book and becomes your spiritual home. You begin to love God not only for what He gives, but for who He is.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NKJV)

“Let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me...”

5. YOU DEVELOP SKILL AND CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING THE BIBLE

Regular reading builds familiarity with the structure of Scripture, key themes, and important passages. This does not mean

becoming casual with God's Word, but becoming skillful in understanding it.

Hebrews 5:13-14 (NKJV)

"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age... who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Experience with Scripture leads to spiritual sharpness and maturity.

FINAL EXHORTATION

God desires a people who are rooted, grounded, and established in His Word—not dependent on personalities, trends, or emotions.

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night... for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

May the Lord bless you as you grow in love for His Word.

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