

HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD - PART 1

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INTRODUCTION

Before we examine practical tools and techniques for studying the Bible, we first need to have an understanding of exactly what the Word of God is. If we engage in the act of studying God's Word with a poor understanding of what the Word of God is, we will never reap the full benefit of the endeavour.

We need to examine/re-evaluate the following perspectives that we may have inherited regarding the purpose of The Bible:

- It is primarily a rule book
- It is primarily a historical document
- B.I.B.L.E - Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Myths around personal bible study:

- Studying the Bible is only for pastors/preachers
 - Studying the bible is solely an 'academic' exercise
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WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD?

1. The Word of God contains the expressed thoughts of God

'Word' = *Logos (greek)*

Vines NT Dictionary: **Intelligence**, word as the expression of that intelligence, discourse, saying, thing; the **expression of thought**.

The Word of God is the expression of God's thoughts, thinking patterns and reasoning.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."

God's thoughts and ways are qualitatively superior to ours. As we engage His Word (His expressed thoughts to us) our thinking is upgraded.

2. The Word is Alive

Hebrews 4:12

*For the word of God is **living** and **active**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating 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*

The word of God is more than just text that conveys information. It is alive. The life-giving power of the Word sustains Life in Christ.

John 6:63b

*The words I speak are spirit and **life**.*

3. The Word is intended to become flesh

John 1:1,14

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the **Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Word is meant to reside within a people. When we study, we facilitate a movement - the text of scripture is transferred and built into our very beings.

4. The Word is the Seed of our Sonship

1 Peter 1:23

*for you have been born again not of **seed** which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

The Word is a seed that produces the image of Christ within us.

Refer to the two parables:

The parable of the sower (Matt 13:1-9) and the parable of the wheat and tares (Matt 13:24-30).

In both parables, Jesus uses the concept of SEED to demonstrate something important. In each parable, the symbol of the seed means something different, yet they are related. In the first parable (Matt 13:1-9), the seed is the Word of God. In the second parable (Matt 13:24-30) the seed is the 'son of the kingdom'. The seed of the Word within us must grow, transforming us into sons of the kingdom.

5. God has hidden Himself in His Word

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Our Kingship is part of our Sonship. A key characteristic of kings is to search the mind of God and rule accordingly. As Kings, we pursue God by pursuing the study of His Word.

This principle is thoroughly explained in the following teaching by Randolph Barnwell:

Wise Kings Seek Christ | [Click here to view](#)

BIBLE HERMENEUTICS

Bible Hermeneutics

Biblical Hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to help us to know how to properly interpret, understand and apply the principles of God's Word practically to our lives.

Exegesis and Eisegesis

Exegesis is the exposition or explanation of a text based on careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means "**to lead out of.**" That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text.

The word **eisegesis** literally means "**to lead into,**" which means the interpreter injects their own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever they want. Eisegesis is a mishandling of the text and often leads to a misinterpretation.

Exegesis is concerned with discovering the true meaning of the text and respecting its grammar, syntax, and setting. Eisegesis is concerned only with making a point, even at the expense of the meaning of words.

CAUTIONS

What we believe about God's character and principles can heavily influence our perspective when studying the Bible. We need to ensure that the basis for our beliefs is solid and accurate.

We need to be careful of the following:

- **Getting our doctrine from popular songs:**
There are many great Christian songs that are word-based. However, there is also an increase in well-written and catchy songs that make use of Christian cliches, which are not based on Biblical truth.
 - **Getting our doctrine from nice-sounding social media posts:**
Just because a doctrine or worldview is trending online, does not mean that it is Biblically sound. We need to look past the smart one-liners and 'clickbaity' articles and carefully examine the Biblical basis for what is shared.
 - **We cannot study in isolation:**
Life in Christ is a life of community. Having a regular Bible study routine is not a substitute for fellowship and regular gatherings within the context of a spiritual family.
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WHAT SHOULD WE STUDY IN THE BIBLE?

Below are some examples of what we could (and, in my opinion, should) be studying in the Bible. This is not an exhaustive list, but it provides us with a good starting point.

We should study:

- Topics/Themes that the Spirit of God draws/leads us to explore.
 - The Word released by your spiritual leader - the word preached is likened unto seed sown. The seed sown within us must be watered through the act of meditating and studying the Word regularly.
 - Case studies related to prophetic words spoken, both personally and corporately.
 - Topics on areas that we are deficient in eg. forgiveness, generosity, etc.
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BIBLE SOFTWARE

In preparation for the next session, you are encouraged to download one of the following Bible programs: [E-sword](#) or [Olive Tree](#). These are available on all mobile and desktop platforms and contain both free and paid resources within them. Olive Tree is free to download, while E-sword has various price points depending on the platform.
