

- Not all Bible study is created equally. This might sound strange to you, but please let me explain. The Bible is still the most sold book in the world today, but unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be having much effect on the world based upon what we see all around us. That must mean one of two things is happening. Either, Bibles are being bought and never read, or they are being read and there is a major disconnect between the reading, comprehension, and application.
- What can be done about this? I'll suggest that many people need to be reminded that Bible study is good, but effective Bible study is better. All Bible study is not made equally. Again, there are many people that read the Bible throughout the world, but there are much fewer who seem to benefit from it by living godly lives. So what makes Bible study effective? I'd like to suggest that Bible study that begins with proper objectives will have a good and desired result, and we'll talk about that for just a few minutes. I'd then like to give you 7 tips that can be put into practice that can help all of our Bible study to be even more effective so we can be more effective for our Lord.

### I. Effective Bible study begins with proper objectives.

- A. Having proper objectives helps the effectiveness of any endeavor.
  1. If there is no objective then often we spin our wheels, go nowhere, and get nothing accomplished.
  2. If our objectives off base, then normally the result(s) will not be what was desired.
  3. If we know what we are doing and why we are doing it, then we are giving ourselves the best opportunity to be successful in our endeavor
- B. Our objective for Bible study should be to know God's will.
  1. God has always provided a way for His people to know His will. In times past He has used prophets, Apostles, those with the ability of knowledge, and even the written word. God has discontinued those first few avenues, but the written word continues on today. Therefore, we should approach this book of letters to find out God's will for us.
  2. If we approach Bible study trying to validate our own agenda or beliefs then we will get ourselves in trouble because it is easy to twist Scripture into what we want. **(II Peter 3:16)**
  3. Having an open heart and open Bible is the only way we can truly come to know God's will.
  4. The Pharisee's saw all the signs, but because of their hard hearts, they weren't able to recognize and acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God. They didn't want to see Him and they didn't.
  5. Unless we are truly desiring to see the truth of God's Word, we won't. Satan wants us to be blinded. He wants us to seek our will and not God's. If our object is anything other to know God and glorify Him then we will never be effective in our Bible study and it's really a waste of time.
  6. We must use our Bible study to simply seek out what God would have for us to do in this life in order to Glorify Him.

### II. Effective Bible study results in deeper knowledge and stronger faith.

- A. Only through reading God's word can we come to know more about Him and His will for us.
  1. The Apostles were guided into all truth and knowledge by the Holy Spirit **(John 16:13)**, and those men have written these letters that we hold in our hands that reveal to us what we need to know about God and His will.
  2. Paul tells the Ephesians that if they want to know the mystery of Christ then they better read his letters. **(Eph. 3:1-4)**
  3. Not only do we come to know about God, but we also come to know what is right and what is wrong. **(II Tim. 2:15)**
- B. A strong faith is built upon deeper knowledge of God
  1. Without reading or hearing and coming to knowledge we cannot come to have a proper faith. **(Rom. 10:17)**
  2. Our faith is built upon what we know, and we cannot have faith in that which we do not know. This is the key reason why it is so important for us to read God's Word and to read it in such a way that we gain these things.
  3. The men and women of faith in **Hebrews 11** knew how to live by faith by knowing God's will for them. We must know God's will before we can obey in faith.

### III.7 tips to help with effective Bible study.

- A. Read daily.
  1. Reading daily helps us to develop good habits and can only help our faith and knowledge.
  2. By reading daily, we show our commitment to God and keep from being trying to keep a strong faith that is fed only when we come together on Sundays and Wednesdays.
  3. We cannot say that we are being diligent in our study if we are not about it on a daily basis. **(II Timothy 2:15)**
- B. Use a reading schedule.
  1. Daily reading is much helped when we have a schedule to keep to. Much like lists help us know what we need to do for the day, a Bible reading schedule helps us to know what we need to do for the day.
  2. Reading schedules give you a goal in mind and can help a person avoid that feeling of “not knowing what to read for today.”
- C. Re-read the text.
  1. Reading is good. Re-reading can make reading even better.
  2. I cannot tell you how many times I have read something, but have gone back later and read the text again and I see something I’ve never seen before.
  3. Re-reading simply helps with comprehension and can only help us understand the text better.
- D. Make/take notes.
  1. Wide margin Bibles are a great resource for the person that like to make notes of the text they are studying.
  2. Others might like to keep notes in a notebook to reference in later studies.
  3. Writing just helps with comprehension and memorization, and it is a great way to break down the text and get to the true meaning of the writers words.
- E. Color mark your Bible.
  1. Color marking helps the reader to see things more clearly and more quickly and is a major resource later down the road.
  2. Helps to spot patterns in the writing of certain authors, and it helps with text breakdown.
  3. A person who color marks puts in the work at the time of coloring and the rewards are there for as long as they use that particular Bible.
- F. Meditate and make application.
  1. Reading without meditation and application can make Bible study a waste of time.
  2. The Bible is God’s avenue to speak to us today, and He has some great things to tell us.
  3. The meditation and application is helped by the other things we have already mentioned. When we put the effort into breaking down the text, then we can more easily understand what the Holy Spirit is desiring for the reader to know and how he or she should use the text to glorify God.
- G. Discuss the text with others.
  1. There are some difficult texts in the Bible, but we can certainly seek out the thoughts of others who have been looking at the same text, especially when there is church wide schedule.
  2. We all see things differently sometimes, and it never heard to try to see things from other perspectives because they might see something that you have missed.
  3. Good Bible study and discussion can easily to build and strengthen relationships within a church and a family.
  4. It also shows that you are serious about knowing and understanding the Bible.

In order to be as strong as possible, we must be as effective as possible in our Bible study. It is part of the lifeblood of our faith and if we are not doing it well or not doing it at all then we will struggle mightily in our faith. May God help us to be dedicated to study, and may we use whatever words for us to come to know God’s will and obey it as best we can.