

Spiritual How-to's
Making the Bible a Priority
Debbie Chaney

Intro- In these sessions we share tips on how to please the Lord. You'll find brief, bible, basics on things that you can do that will genuinely please the Lord.

Today's topic – Making the Bible a priority in your life

Intro: How long can you live without food?

I read that you can live: 3 minutes without air
3 hours without shelter
3 days without water and
3 weeks without food

So, spiritually speaking, that's probably also true. 3 weeks without spiritual food will kill us spiritually.

I. Jesus told us, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me, shall never thirst." Jn. 6:35

A. He also said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every WORD that comes from the mouth of God." Mat. 4:4

1. So we feed on the Word, life and teachings of Jesus – our bread.
2. But that's not all. Every word = the whole bible

B. This WORD, THAT Jesus spoke of, is where everything began.

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God."
John 1:1

1. The Word in our life, is where life begins. The Word brings life to us.
2. Reading it, understanding it, living it.

C. May I suggest this analogy? Just like the bread...

1. eat the word = read or listen to it
2. digest it = know it, study it, understand it
3. it becomes part of you = live it

D. It is vital that you make reading the Bible a part of your life, if you are seeking to grow (as we talked about last week) spiritually.

1. We demonstrate it is a priority in our life, when we:
 - a. read it
 - b. know it
 - c. live it
2. Paul said, we will show ourselves "approved" by God, if we study the Word.
2 Tim. 2:15 That means, when we read & study the Word, it pleases the Lord. Greek word, 1384/approved. He approves.

II. So, how do we prioritize the bible – the Word of God, into our life?

Let me offer you 4 steps:

A. Make a decision to eat (1) Be intentional. Decide it's time to eat.

1. We do what we feel is important.
2. We will go through each day without eating any word, until we decide we need to feed our spirit.
 - a. And if we're already feeling spiritually dead, (3+ weeks w/o food) the harder it is to find our way back to a bible
 - b. But don't stop trying!
3. I've had seasons when the word was not a priority in my life. They WILL change, IF we really are hungry spiritually. If not, well, it's different.
4. Set a time, keep the appointment. Make it a priority.

B. Eat the Word. (2)

1. Read it, listen to it
 2. NOT devotionals, or books ABOUT the bible, read the actual bible
 3. You will need a a bible or bible APP
 4. So here are some things to consider –
 1. The bible was originally written in Hebrew and Aramiac – the OT, and Greek, the NT
 2. So it needs to be translated for those of us who don't speak those languages
 3. There are over 400 different English translations
 4. All translate for accuracy and understandability, so all are basically good.
 5. There are 3 types of translations –
 1. Formal = word for word
KJV, NKJV, AMP, ESV, NASB, RSV
 2. Dynamic = thought for thought
NIV, NLT, CSB, HCSB, NRSV, NCV
 3. Free = paraphrase
MSG, GNT, TPT, CEV, TLB
 6. All that to say, there are ample, accurate bibles for you to choose from.
 7. If you're just starting out reading the Bible maybe try NIV or NLT
- C. This generation tends to like digital books and even a digital bible. Here are some options for APPS-
1. **Bible** – Verse of the Day
 2. Bible – Life Church
 3. Bible- The Holy Bible App – Krobe.net, iPad
 4. Bible App – Read & Study daily – Olive Tree

5. **Bible is** – Audio & Video Bibles – Faith Comes by Hearing

6. The Study Bible – Grace to You

7. NIV Bible APP – Olive Tree

8. Bible Verses – Daily Devotion, Skol Games LLC

9. **Our Daily Bread** - RBC Ministries

10. **Blue Letter Bible** – In depth study, Bible

11. **Bible Gateway** – Harper Collins

12. **You Version** - =in 1,600 languages

* **I use: BLB APP & daily read the ESV Key Word Study Bible**

I have 11 different bibles on my shelf, but still, each one needs to be read

D. Once you have a bible, where do you read? This is where many quit, there are too many choices.

1. If you are a new believer, or reader start in the gospel of Mark or John, then move on to the other gospels- Jesus' words and his life. Our bread.

2. Then maybe on to Proverbs, the chapter that matches the date

3. If you're a growing Christian, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, James

4. Always, I recommend reading Proverbs – the chapter that corresponds with the date

5. Psalms is always good, but really can be depressing in places

6. Genesis is great for learning basic bible ancestry

7. Acts is a must if you are wanting to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

E. How much should I read? Verse, chapter, minutes?

1. 5 minutes is always a great start. Verse a day w/ application is good.

2. BUT – growth is expected – 15 min/day, 30 min./day, etc.

3. Remember – you are eating the Word and it is feeding you Spirit.

I eat a big meal of the Word each day. I have a big appetite. But it has grown.

F. Let's Review – how can we please the Lord by getting into the Word?

A. **PRIORITIZE** – make a decision to make it a daily priority

B. **EAT** – read or listen to the Bible each day

III. DIGEST IT (3) Study, meditate, know it, understand it, memorize it. Mull it over, question, reflect & compare. Understanding it empowers us to live pleasing to the Lord. Read AND pray as you do. Ask for help...

LOOK:

A. Thy word have I hid in my heart. Psa. 119:11

B. Your word is a lamp to my feet Ps. 119:105

- C. Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed
2 Tim. 2:15
- D. All scripture is profitable. 2 Tim. 3:16
- E. Faith comes from hearing the word Rom. 10:17
- F. The word is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword Heb. 4:12
- G. Whoever does not love me, does not keep my words John 14:23
- H. The name by which He is called is The Word of God Rev. 19:13
- I. And remember, Ps. 119 – the longest chapter in the bible, 176 verses? Everyone mentions a synonym for Word (in the Hebrew). Law, commands. Promises, etc.

Review- 1. Make a decision 2. Read it. Digest it

IV. Live it (4)

- A. Although reading the bible has it's challenges, living it is it's greatest challenge.**
 - 1. Be doers of the word and not hearers only Jas. 1:22
 - 2. If you love me, you will keep my commandments (words) Jn. 14:15
 - 3. Your word is truth Jn. 17:17
- B. The Bible becomes the standard for our life, it becomes the priority. It becomes the lens thru which we see the world.
- C. It feeds our spiritual man.
- C. As we learn to live by it, it is our greatest challenge and God's greatest pleasure
- D. We demonstrate ourselves to be mature sons of God

Closing –

We make the Bible a priority when we:

- 1. make a decision, set a time to read**
- 2. read the bible**
- 3. digest it**
- 4. live it**

THIS grooms us to be mature sons and daughters & pleases the Father

Underdebraspalm.com