

Developing a Biblical Worldview
Bible-ology Part 2 — How do I read my Bible and HEAR God speak to me?

Our Goal: Every time we open the Word and each time we meditate on it the aim is always the same - To know Jesus deeply and truly.

Our View towards Scripture:

- Convictions: What am I convicted about the Word of God?
 - The Bible is God breathed-out Word
 - The Holy Spirit speaks with and thru God's Word
 - There is no other means to know Christ deeper apart from the Word
- Attitude: How do I act regarding Scripture:
 - With an attitude of desperation
 - **1 Peter 2:3-5**
 - **Psalm 119:129-131**
 - With a heart of awe and affection
 - **Psalm 119:103-104 & 127**
 - With an aim for consistency
 - **Mark 1:35**
 - **Luke 5:16**
 - **Joshua 1:6-9**
 - With an action producing faith
 - **Psalm 119:100**
- Expectations: What do I expecting when I open my Bible?
 - Possessing grounded expectations
 - Seeking in private
 - Rightfully handling emotions
 - Growing intellectually
 - Receiving conviction
 - Experiencing growth

Our Intake of Scripture:

- Three aspects: Observation — Interpretation — Application
- **Observation: Psalm 119:18**
 - *You See but you do not observe* .Sherlock Holmes
 - Be an active and engaged reader
 - Read Freshly: Read as though for the first time, every time
 - Read Personally: God WANTS to communicate to you
 - Read Wholistically
 - Repetition: Read and Re-read through passages
 - From the Beginning: Start at the beginning of a book
 - Audibly: Read out loud and listen to Scripture read aloud
 - Imaginatively: **Put** yourself into the text
 - Resourcefully: Take advantage of quality resources
 - Read Thoughtfully
 - Ask basic questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why, Wherefore
 - Watch the grammar
 - Look for structure
 - Telescopically - See the parts in light of the whole
 - Pay attention to...
 - Things that are emphasized
 - Things that are repeated
 - Things that are related
 - Things that are alike and unlike
 - Things that are true to lived experience
 - Read Patiently

- Read Meditatively: Find ways to keep the Word in front of you always
- Read Prayerfully
- **Interpretation: Luke 24:25-27**
 - Five keys to healthy interpretation
 1. Content — know the text thoroughly through observation
 2. Context — know what is happening in the passage
 - Literary context — How does the grammar and language of the text impact the understanding of it?
 - Historical context — How does what is happening historically at the time of the passage impact the understanding of the text?
 - Cultural Context — How does the culture of the time the text is written effect the meaning of words, traditions, actions, etc.?
 - Geographic Context — How does the location impact the understanding of what is taking place in the passage?
 - Theological Context — How does the theological understanding of the author and reader impact the understanding of the text?
 3. Comparison — know how the passage compares to other aspects of Scripture.
 4. Culture
 5. Consultation — after thorough study, make use of secondary resources to further shed light on things that are harder to find or not available in the text.
 - Concordance
 - Bible Dictionary
 - Atlases
- **Application: Matthew 5-7**
 - Bible intake without application is a denial of the heart of Scripture.
 - Five substitutes for application
 1. Substituting interpretation only for experience/obedience
 - Settling for knowledge rather than obedience
 2. Substituting superficial obedience for substantive life-change
 - Only applying the Word to areas I am "good" in
 3. Substituting rationalization for repentance
 - Convincing myself that I am not guilty or need to do what Scripture shows
 4. Substituting an emotional experience for a volitional decision
 - Being satisfied with having my emotions touched but not choosing to be obedient
 5. Substituting communication for transformation
 - Knowing the Word well enough to talk about it while ignoring obedience to it
 - Four steps to application
 1. Know — Know the passage inside and out (observation and interpretation)
 2. Relate — Relate the central truth of the passage to life
 3. Meditate — Continually keep the truth of the passage in your heart and mind
 4. Practice — Commit to obey the truth of the passage
 - Nine helpful questions for application
 1. Is there an example for me to follow?
 2. Is there a sin to avoid?
 3. Is there a promise to claim?
 4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
 5. Is there a command to obey?
 6. Is there a condition to meet?
 7. Is there a verse to memorize?
 8. Is there an error to mark?
 9. Is there a challenge to face?