BASICS OF READING & STUDYING GOD'S WORD

BASICS OF BIBLE READING & STUDYING GOD'S WORD

It's important to be Spirit-led and well rounded in our reading and studying of God's Word. At times we may read it for content, at other times we slow down and dig deeper into a specific scripture. Either way, the Word will bear fruit as we follow how the Father is leading us to read, study and apply it.

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1. **Why Reading & Studying the Word Are Important:**
    a. God, His character and His nature are all revealed in His Word: Isaiah 6:3
    b. It causes transformational growth: I Peter 2:2
    c. It is the guidepost and foundation for our lives: Psalm 119:9, 11, 12, & 105
    d. It has power & authority: Heb 4:12; Is 55:10 & 11

2. **How To Read & Study the Bible**
    a. Ask the Holy Spirit to help guide and teach you. In John 14, He promised to teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance.
    b. It is important that you read the Bible through your regenerated "saved" spirit, instead of your intellect alone. This is vital to understanding, internalizing and applying God's word because it is the Spirit that gives life (John 6:63; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 2:14)
    c. Have a teachable heart. (Psalm 119: 33 & 34)
    d. Prioritize and commit to spending time reading the Bible regularly: (Psalm 119:15 & 16)
    e. Good books to begin with if you are new to the bible: Psalms, Proverbs, Luke & Acts. You can also simply select any book of the Bible to read.
    f. Reliable translations to use as your primary source: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version(ESV), New King James (NKJV), New International Version (NIV)

Useful Tip: Don't become robotic about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and teach. If He causes a passage or specific scripture to stand out, feel free to stay there until you receive what He wants to give you.

3. **Other Study Methods:**
    a. Study by topic, i.e. Salvation, Faith, God's love
    b. Reading through each testament of the bible, or the entire Bible, i.e. so many chapters per session. Plans are available that walk you through the bible in different ways, i.e. chronologically, by category of book, in order by book etc. Simply search online for bible reading plans.
    c. Studying scriptures from sermon notes
    d. Utilize a study bible
    e. Reference different translations to help with understanding, highlighting or giving a different perspective of certain scriptures, i.e., AMP, MSG, CJB, NLT.

4. **Study Bibles and other study tools**
    a. Choose study Bibles that are easy to read and have a good variety study tools
    b. Topic Bibles, i.e., Men's or Women's Study Bibles
    c. Some specific study bibles and tools:
        i. Strong's Concordance - hard copy ink, link
        ii. Bible Commentaries - link, link
        iii. ESV Study Bible (Crossway) - link
        iv. Keyword Study Bible (AMG Publishers) - link
        v. The Bible Study: A One-Year Study of the Bible - link
        vi. Tony Evans Study Bible - link
        vii. The Story Retold: A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament - link
        viii. Quest Study Bible (beginners/teens) - link
        ix. The Bible Study - Youth Edition by Zack Windhal - link
        x. NIV Beautiful Word Coloring Bible (teens & tweens) - link
        xi. Zondervan NIV Bible for Teen Girls- link, Guys - link
        xii. Websites/Apps:
            1. https://www.biblegateway.com/
            2. Youversion Bible App - devotionals/reading plans, bible translations etc.
            3. https://biblehub.com/
            4. https://www.openbible.info/topics/
            5. https://www.blueletterbible.org/
            6. https://www.biblestudytools.com/
            7. https://enduringword.com/ & Enduring Word Mobile App
            8. https://www.bestbiblecommentaries.com/free-downloads/
            9. https://www.bible.com/reading-plans

5. **Meditating on and Confessing the Word Ps 119: 15-16**
    a. Meditation: Contemplate; ponder; soak in; memorize; delight in.
    b. Confession: Verbally come into agreement with and proclaim a scripture.
        i. Romans 10: 8 & 9; Eph 6:17
        ii. Luke 4:3-13 Jesus confessed scripture to defeat the devil.

Useful Tips:

c. Use specific passages or individual scriptures that the Holy Spirit causes to stand out to meditate on and/or confess.
d. As you meditate on them, ask God what He is trying to teach you through the scriptures He is highlighting.
e. Use scriptures that are related to specific circumstances of your life's journey.
f. Write down scriptures for memorization, meditation & confession.
g. One memorization technique:
    i. Step1: read and recite a portion of the verse or passage
    ii. Step2: once that portion is memorized, add another section to it
    iii. Step3: continue memorizing additional segments systematically over time until the entire verse or passage is memorized.