Devotional Method
Rick Warren

I. Introduction.

    A. This is the simplest method there is.

    B. This is the basic method one would use in a quiet time.

    C. The three key words to devotional study are meditation, application and memorization.

    D. The devotional method involves taking a passage of the Bible and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows me a way to one's own life.

II. Application.

    A. Application is important because the Bible was given to change us. It is dangerous to study the Bible without applying it.

        1. Knowledge puffs up.

        2. Knowledge requires action. (James 1:22, Matthew 7:24-26)

        3. Knowledge increases responsibility. (James 4:17)

    B. It is difficult to apply.

        1. It requires a good deal of meditation, which is thought digestion. Ways to meditate:

            a. Ponder the Word.

            b. Picture it.

            c. Pronounce it.

            d. Paraphrase it.

            e. Pray it back to God.

            f. Probe it.

            e. Personalize it.

            g. Practice it. Is there any sin to confess? Is there any promise to claim? Is there any attitude to change? Is there any command to obey? Is there any example to follow? Is there any error to avoid? Is there any teaching to believe? Is there something for which to praise God?

III. Steps.

A. Pray for insights and how to share it.

B. Meditate on the Scripture.

C. Put it into practice.

    1. Determine whether the truth is for a local situation or a timeless principle.

    2. Look for timeless principles, and apply it to modern situations.

    3. It ought to be personal, practical, possible and provable.

D. Write the key down for future use for your own life, or to minister to someone else.

E. Pick a verse to memorize because God will continue to use it in your life.

Application questions:

1. Which form of meditation did you find most valuable personally? Why?
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2. Whys it is important to make an application both possible and provable? Explain.
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3. Pick a passage for personal study and apply what you have learned in the message. What is God teaching you from the text? Explain.
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