

# Importance of the Word of God

*Jim Downing*

## I. Introduction.

A. The Gideons' description of the Bible shows that the Word of God has the greatest worth. (Psalm 138:2)

*The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.*

*It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.*

*CHRIST is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.*

*It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a wine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.*

B. The Word of God is alive. God's signature is behind God's Word. (Jeremiah 1:12)

C. Five things concerning the Word of God.

## II. We need to feed on the Word of God to be healthy Christians. (Jeremiah 15:16; John 6)

A. Through feeding on the Word of God we feed on Christ.

B. We do this through:

1. **Hearing.** (Nehemiah 9:3)

a. Hearing is likened to only smelling food.

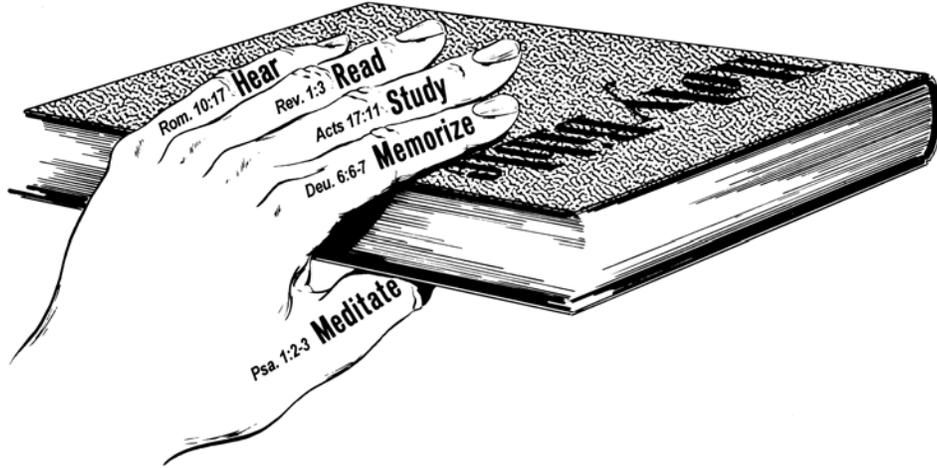
b. You need to consume it after hearing. (Acts 17:11)

2. You need to **read** the Scriptures therefore. (1 Timothy 4:13)

a. The value of a meal is not in memorizing a menu.

b. You must consume it.

C. The Word has its effect even if we do not have it all memorized.



III. We need to **study** the Word of God to be intelligent Christians. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 10:32-33)

A. There are distinctions between Jewish truth, Gentile truth and Christian truth that need to be divided.

B. The difference between reading and studying is the presence and use of pencil and paper.

C. There are five characteristics of a good Bible study.

1. Original investigation.

a. Epistles were not originally delivered with ten commentaries.

b. Original discovery is always the best.

2. Written reproduction.

3. Systematic and progressive. No doctrine of Scripture is to be interpreted apart from any other doctrine in Scripture.

4. Personal application.

5. "Pass-on-able."

a. It must be simple enough that it can be passed on to others.

b. The Navigator Bible Studies are successful because they can be passed on.

IV. We need to **memorize** the Word of God to be skillful Christians.

A. It is for everybody - not just children.

B. The reason for memorizing is to be equipped for Christians and non-Christians.

C. The word of God buried in our hearts is about the only weapon the Holy Spirit has when we start to get out of line. He is able to prick our hearts and consciences through that Word.

D. It is indispensable in personal evangelism.

E. It is easy to be considered an authority on the Scriptures when you have only a few memorized.

V. We **meditate** on the Word of God to be spiritually fruitful Christians.

A. We are to meditate on the Word of God day and night. (Joshua 1:3)

B. Meditation is rumination. Nourishment is extracted and it goes into your life.

C. The Lord comes in the volume of the book. (Psalm 37:4)

D. Meditating on the Word transfers Christ's life into ours. (John 15:5)

VI. We **apply** the Word of God to be obedient Christians.

A. We are to do and teach. The sequence is important. (James 1:22-24)

1. It is unusual for a person to look into a mirror and not see something that needs an adjustment and not make that adjustment.

2. It is therefore an oddity for a person not to take immediate action when he sees a problem in his character to work on after looking into the Word of God.

B. We need to apply what we learn from the Scriptures.

VII. Conclusion.

A. Satan's primary aim is to keep you from God's Word. In doing this, Satan decreases our effectiveness for God. The hope is that new patterns would develop in helping us be victorious for Christ.

Application questions.

1. Review the five methods for getting the Word into your heart. Which stand out to you? Why?

---

---

2. Do you see some methods as more important than others? If so, why? Explain.

---

---

3. Are you lacking in any of these areas? How can you efficiently apply these methods of saturating yourself in God's Word in a way that most honors Him?

---

---