

September 20, 2015

## The Joy Of Spiritual Discipline:

### Tools for Discipleship – Bible Study

Psalm 119:11, 25-32; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:15-21; 3:15-16

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#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

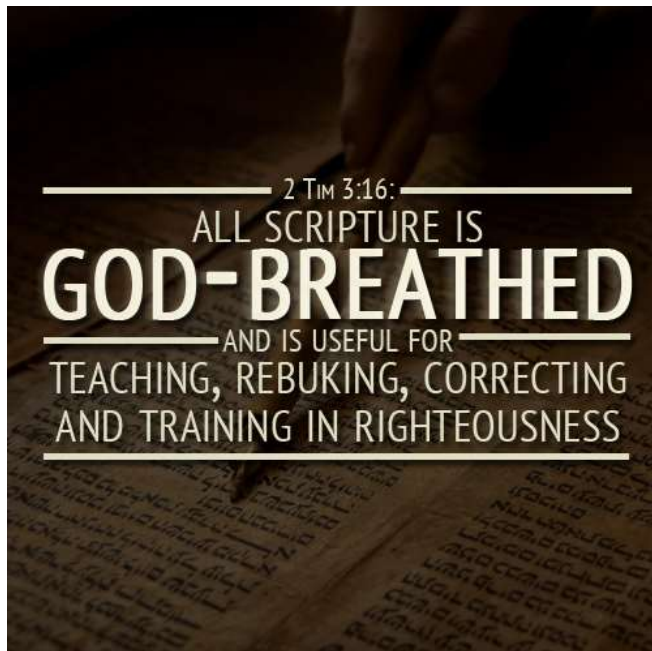
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we continue our study of Spiritual Discipline. The practice of living a life that is in pursuit of God must be rooted in the Word of God. It is in the Word of God that we find the story of God's true love and sacrifice for us. So it is natural for us to find great joy in the Word of God. This week we will look at both why we study the Bible, and how we can be disciplined in knowing the Word of God more, so that we can be a better reflection of His Son, Jesus Christ.



## **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)**

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

### **Read Psalm 119:11, 25-32 (NET)**

<sup>11</sup> In my heart I store up your words,  
so I might not sin against you.

<sup>25</sup> I collapse in the dirt.

Revive me with your word!

<sup>26</sup> I told you about my ways and you answered  
me. Teach me your statutes!

<sup>27</sup> Help me to understand what your precepts  
mean! Then I can meditate on your marvelous  
teachings.

<sup>28</sup> I collapse from grief.

Sustain me by your word!

<sup>29</sup> Remove me from the path of deceit!

Graciously give me your law!

<sup>30</sup> I choose the path of faithfulness;

I am committed to your regulations.

<sup>31</sup> I hold fast to your rules.

O Lord, do not let me be ashamed!

<sup>32</sup> I run along the path of your commands,  
for you enable me to do so.

### **Read 2 Timothy 3:16 (NET)**

<sup>16</sup> Every scripture is inspired by God and useful  
for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for  
training in righteousness,

### **Read 2 Peter 1:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> Indeed, I will also make every effort that,  
after my departure, you have a testimony of  
these things.

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly concocted  
fables when we made known to you the power  
and return of our Lord Jesus Christ; no, we

were eyewitnesses of his grandeur. <sup>17</sup> For he  
received honor and glory from God the Father,  
when that voice was conveyed to him by the  
Majestic Glory: "This is my dear Son, in whom I  
am delighted." <sup>18</sup> When this voice was  
conveyed from heaven, we ourselves heard it,  
for we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> Moreover, we possess the prophetic word as  
an altogether reliable thing. You do well if you  
pay attention to this as you would to a light  
shining in a murky place, until the day dawns  
and the morning star rises in your hearts.

<sup>20</sup> Above all, you do well if you recognize this:  
No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by  
the prophet's own imagination, <sup>21</sup> for no  
prophecy was ever borne of human impulse;  
rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit  
spoke from God.

### **Read 2 Peter 3:15-16 (NET)**

<sup>15</sup> And regard the patience of our Lord as  
salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul  
wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to  
him, <sup>16</sup> speaking of these things in all his letters.  
Some things in these letters are hard to  
understand, things the ignorant and unstable  
twist to their own destruction, as they also do to  
the rest of the scriptures.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

## **🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)**

What does God MEAN?

8. How do we know that the Scriptures are from God? (2Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:15-21)?
9. Did any of the prophets or apostles authenticate their words with miraculous signs? (Acts 3:11-13, 5:12)
10. Paul was not an eyewitness to the life of Jesus. How do we know Paul's writings are Scripture? (2 Peter 3:15-16)

11. a. Why should we study the Scriptures? (Psalm 119:11)

b. How do we store up Scripture in our heart?

12. Read Philippians 4:8-9. What is pure and lovely that we can spend time thinking about?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

13. How can you spend time this week focused on the Word of God?

14. Share when you have been the most successful spending regular time in the Word. What was your regular schedule?

15. How has study of the Word of God changed you?

16. What is the danger of not continuing to study the Word of God?

**Challenge for this week:** This week spend a little time each day focused on Philippians 2:1-11 and see if you can memorize these eleven verses this week.

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

**SERMON NOTES**