



The Call To Study The Bible

God calls us to do several things with His Word! And each thing that God calls upon us to do with His Word proceed and grow from each other and form a cycle.

① **THERE IS A CALL TO READ THE BIBLE** (**Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Isaiah 34:16**)

THE BIBLE IS TO BE READ DAILY! To **read** is;

“to utter written words, to become acquainted with what is written, it is a recognition, and a observation of words, and a correct putting of words together”

To **read** is;

“an exegesis, a drawing out, or extracting of information from what is written”

Again, **whatever God calls upon us to do with the Bible, is meant for our spiritual profit!** We must realize that **it is possible to read the Bible in such a mechanical and careless manner that we do not profit spiritually!** For this reason; Paul instructed Timothy “*give attention (attention and thought) to reading”* (**I Timothy 4:13**). Profitable reading requires **attention**, and a level of **comprehension** or **understanding**, which is;

“the ability to interpret the meaning and significance of words”

Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch “*Understandest what thou readest?”* (**Acts 8:30**). The very idea of **reading** implies an **interest** in, and a **desire** to understand what is written! The Bible should be **read daily** and **continuously** with **diligence** and **thoroughness** (**Isaiah 28:10**), and not in a **hurried** and **careless** manner!



② THERE IS A CALL TO SEARCH THE BIBLE (John 5:39)

THE BIBLE IS TO BE SEARCHED DAILY! To search is;

“to seek and to look for, to make thorough check, to examine, and inspect thoroughly, to scrutinize”

To search is;

“a labor, something that requires effort, and diligence”

The very idea of searching, like reading implies interest and desire, but though searching the Bible requires reading; **SEARCHING IS A STEP BEYOND READING!** Again, **whatever God calls upon us to do with the Bible, is meant for our spiritual profit!** We must realize that **it is possible to read the Bible without searching! BUT ONE CANNOT TRULY SEARCH WITHOUT READING!** There is the instruction of **Isaiah 34:16** *“Seek (search), ye (personal), out of the book of the LORD, and read”* **SEEKING, OR SEARCHING INVOLVES READING!** Notice that it is; *“out of the book of the LORD”* Again, the reading and the searching is an exegesis or

“a drawing out, or extracting of information from what is written”

It is recorded in **Acts 17:11** that the Bereans did more than read the Word of God, they *“searched the scriptures”* and this they did *“daily”* The Bible should be personally read and searched daily and continuously with diligence and thoroughness!



③ THERE IS A CALL TO STUDY THE BIBLE (II Timothy 2:15)

THE BIBLE IS TO BE STUDIED DAILY! To study is;

“to give earnest attention, and careful and extended consideration, to research, to examine, to make inquiry, and to review”

By reading, one can know what something says, and by studying one seeks to know what it means! **STUDYING INVOLVES SEARCHING, AND BOTH REQUIRE READING!** Again, **whatever God calls upon us to do with the Bible, is meant for our spiritual profit!**



④ **THERE IS A CALL TO MEDITATE UPON THE BIBLE**
(Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2)

THE BIBLE IS TO BE MEDITATED UPON DAILY! To meditate is;

“to ponder, to carefully consider, and to mull over”

To meditate is a step beyond *reading, searching, and studying*, it is;

“taking what is read, searched, and studied and giving it serious thought”

Meditation bears the same office in the mental constitution as digestion does in our bodily system. So to *meditate* upon the Scripture is;

“to digest it” (**Jeremiah 15:16**).

IT IS THE WORD OF GOD TAKING UP RESIDENCE IN THE HEART! It is what we do with what is read, searched, and studied throughout the day. Again, **whatever God calls us to do with the Bible, is meant for our spiritual profit, and MEDITATION IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO PROFITABLE READING, SEARCHING, AND STUDYING, AND SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF SUCH!** It is stated in both **Joshua 1:8** and **Psalm 1:2** that *meditation* should be *“day and night”*



⑤ THERE IS A CALL TO APPLY THE BIBLE
(James 1:21)

THE BIBLE IS TO BE APPLIED DAILY! This is indicated by the word “*receive*” To **apply** is;

“the act of putting to use, the relating a passage of Scripture to life and circumstances, situations, and conditions, the putting into practice what God says”

To **apply** requires;

*“the receptivity of what is **read**, **searched**, **studied**, and **meditated** upon”*

The Bible was written for the **heart**, the **mind**, and the **will**, and therefore, must be personally applied! To **apply** is;

“the actual doing of what is written” (James 1:22-25).

The Bible is a book to be put into practice. Notice the phrase “*do them*” in connection with God’s Word (**Deuteronomy 4:1, 14; 5:31; 6:1; 7:11, 12; 11:22; 17:19; 19:9; 24:8; 26:16; 27:26; 28:13; 32:46**). The Bible is to be **read** in order to **learn**; “*read therein all the days of his life that he may learn to fear the LORD his God*” (**Deuteronomy 17:19**). From this we see that **THE BIBLE IS TO BE LEARNED, YET NOT MERELY LEARNED, BUT TO BE LIVED!** Again, whatever God calls us to do with the Bible, is meant for our spiritual profit! **THERE IS NO PROFITABLE READING, SEARCHING, STUDYING, AND MEDITATION WITHOUT APPLICATION!**

