



A Proper Approach To Bible Study

① APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH PERSUASION AND CONVICTION

Paul wrote with absolute persuasion and conviction of heart and mind those words; *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God”* He wrote those words with absolute certainty, and surety! One will never see the importance of, and will never consistently read, search, study, meditate upon, and personally apply, the Bible, without this absolute persuasion and conviction, that the Bible is the word of God! APPROACH THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD! There must be absolute persuasion and conviction that the Bible is the word of One who cannot lie or be mistaken (**Titus 1:2**). THIS UNWAVERING PERSUASION AND CONVICTION IS FOUNDATIONAL TO A PROPER APPROACH! Every aspect of reading, searching, studying, meditating upon, and applying the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION

② APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH PREPARATION OF HEART

Again, Paul wrote with absolute persuasion and conviction of heart and mind; *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable”* The reader of the Bible should possess the same persuasion and conviction concerning the **Word of God**! Such persuasion and conviction will lead one to **prepare their heart** as they approach the **Word of God**! There is much profit to be gained from the **Word of God**, but in order to profitably read, search, study, meditate upon, and make personal application of the **Word of God**; THERE MUST BE A PROPER PREPARATION OF HEART! The *heart* must be prepared to receive the seed of the Word (**Jeremiah 4:3; Hosea 10:12**). Such PREPARATION involves prayer, personal examination, confession, and repentance before God! Though James is making reference to the hearing of what is written in the Bible (**James 1:21**), the principal is the same for the reading of it! THE HEART MUST BE BROUGHT INTO A CONDITION TO RECEIVE OR WELCOME THE WORD OF GOD! For the heart to be prepared means that;

“it is in a right relationship with God, and as such, it is in a tender, and pliable state”

The deeper and stronger the **conviction** that the Bible is indeed the very **word of God**, the more prone one is to make **PREPARATION** of heart to receive it! Every aspect of **reading, searching, studying, meditating** upon, and **applying** the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART

③ APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND AWE

As a result of **persuasion and conviction** that the Bible is the word of God, the individual realizes that the Bible should not be approached as any other book, which leads to a **preparation of heart**, and this **persuasion**, and **conviction**, and **preparation** produces a sense of **REVERENCE** and **AWE** (**Psalm 119:161; Isaiah 66:2**). This speaks of the **wonder**, the **marvel**, and the **amazement** that ought to fill the heart of the reader toward the **Word of God** (**Psalm 119:129**). The **Word of God** is indeed a great **wonder** because of its **author, character, content, purpose** and **effect**! This **REVERENCE** and **AWE** ought to fill the heart in the preliminary steps prior to opening the **Word of God**, and ought to increase during the reading! This **REVERENCE** and **AWE** enhances profitable Bible study. Every aspect of **reading, searching, studying, meditating** upon, and **applying** the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART
REVERENCE & AWE

④ APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH A SPIRIT OF SUBMISSION

Again, the Bible was written to be **obeyed**, and to be put into **practice** (**Deuteronomy 4:1; 5:1; 6:1-3, 17-18, 24; 8:1-2; 10:12-13; 11:1; 12:1-3, 13-14, 28, 32; 13:4**). And such requires true **SUBMISSION** to God! **THE BIBLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE APPROACHED WITH THE INTENT TO SUBMIT, AND YIELD TO WHATEVER IT SAYS!** This spirit of **SUBMISSION** has its foundation in the realization that **God has absolute and universal right of authority**, that **He has absolute and universal claim**, and the **persuasion and conviction that the Bible is the very word of God!** Where there is absolute **persuasion** and **conviction** that the Bible is the **word of God**, and where there is **preparation** of heart, and where there is **reverence** and **awe** toward the Bible, there will be **A PROMPT AND UNQUESTIONING ACCEPTANCE AND SUBMISSION TO WHAT IT SAYS!** This spirit of **SUBMISSION** desires to be **governed, molded, and shaped** by God using His Word! This spirit of

SUBMISSION greatly enhances profitable Bible study. Every aspect of reading, searching, studying, meditating upon, and applying the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART
REVERENCE & AWE
SUBMISSION

⑤ APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS

The very fact that the Bible is to be searched and studied implies a degree of **SERIOUSNESS!** This **SERIOUSNESS** stands opposed to approaching the **Word of God** in a casual, lackadaisical, superficial, unthinking sort of way. This **SERIOUSNESS** implies a determined, deliberate, earnest, and persevering state of heart and mind! This **SERIOUSNESS** is a result of an unwavering conviction that the Bible is indeed the very **word of God**, the result of a preparation of heart, and a reverence and awe of heart and mind, and with a spirit of submission! This **SERIOUSNESS** of heart and mind enhances profitable Bible study. Every aspect of reading, searching, studying, meditating upon, and applying the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART
REVERENCE & AWE
SUBMISSION
SERIOUSNESS

⑥ APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH DEPENDENCE UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible being the very **word of God**, a dictation from God is beyond the natural mind of man (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). The ability to understand and grasp the meaning of the Bible is not dependent upon human intelligence, nor is it dependent upon a more modern translation, nor is it dependent upon the commentaries of man! **TO UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD ONE MUST HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD AS THEIR TEACHER!** The teaching of the Holy Spirit is **imperative** (**John 14:26; 16:12-15; I Corinthians 2:9-11, 13, 14**). **TO UNDERSTAND AND GRASP THE WORD OF GOD, DIVINE ENABLEMENT IS REQUIRED!** The function of the Holy Spirit is not to communicate “*new truth*” but to illuminate, and clarify what is revealed in Scripture! **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE REVEALER OF THE REVELATION OF GOD’S WORD!** Therefore, the Bible is to be approached **realizing one’s complete**

DEPENDENCE upon the Spirit of God, and with **the prayer that He would reveal God's word (Psalm 119:18, 27, 34, 73, 125, 144, 169)**. The **Author of the book is willing to act as Interpreter** **DEPEND UPON HIM!** This spirit of **DEPENDENCE** enhances profitable Bible study. Every aspect of **reading, searching, studying, meditating** upon, and **applying** the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART
REVERENCE & AWE
SUBMISSION
SERIOUSNESS OF HEART & MIND
DEPENDENCE UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT

⑦ APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD WITH DESIRE OF HEART

The Bible is the seed that the Holy Spirit uses to **impart spiritual life**, and what He uses to **sustain and revive spiritual life** in His people! It is what He uses to **bring about spiritual growth**, it is what He uses to **feed and increase faith in His people**, what He uses to **illuminate and guide His people!** It is what He uses to **cleanse and protect His people**, it is what He uses to **admonish to comfort**, and to **rejoice His people!** The Holy Spirit will use the Bible to **train His people in righteousness, and to equip them for the Lord's service!** **THE BIBLE IS GOD REVEALING HIMSELF TO MAN! IT IS THE REVELATION OF THE MIND, THE WILL, AND THE PLAN OF GOD!** The Bible contains **what God wants us to know, and is for the spiritual benefit of God's people!** Therefore the Bible should be approached with a **passion, a longing, and a desire to know (Psalm 119:125), to learn (Psalm 119:12, 26, 33), to be able to see clearly the meaning of (Psalm 119:18), to understand (Psalm 119:27, 34), and to obey (Psalm 119:80) what God has for us!** It should be approached with the desire and prayer of Samuel; *“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth” (1 Samuel 3:9)*. This **DESIRE for God to speak directly to us draws and compels us to read, search, and study the Word of God until God speaks to us, and until something glorious happens within our hearts; “until the day dawn (until it shines forth), and the day star (Jesus Christ), arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19).** **DON'T JUST READ THE BIBLE WITHIN THE BOX OF A BIBLE READING SCHEDULE!** Every aspect of **reading, searching, studying, meditating** upon, and **applying** the *Word of God* should be with:



PERSUASION & CONVICTION
PREPARATION OF HEART
REVERENCE & AWE
SUBMISSION

**SERIOUSNESS OF HEART & MIND
DEPENDENCE UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT
DESIRE OF HEART**

These steps of **APPROACH** proceed and grow from each other and are a cycle! **MAY WE NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROPER APPROACH TO THE WORD OF GOD!**

