

## *Bible Study Principles*



## *Personal Application*

The Bible is to be personally **applied** by the reader. In **James 1:21** it is stated; “*receive (accept, welcome, and believe), with meekness (a readiness to be controlled by), the engrafted word*” (this is a living union between the individual and the word).

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 make this **application** requires;

*“the receptivity of what is read or studied”*

The Bible is a book that is 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** a proper spirit toward the Lord, in order to **keep** and **do**, and to serve as a **preventative**, to the heart, and from going astray (**Deuteronomy 17:19-20**). **THE BIBLE IS TO BE LEARNED, YET NOT MERELY LEARNED, BUT TO BE LIVED!**

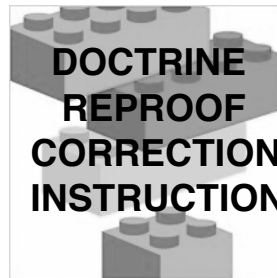
### **THE GOAL**

**A HEART AND LIFE CHANGING CONFORMITY!**



## ① MAKE USE OF THE INTENDED FUNCTIONS OF SCRIPTURE AS APPLICATION PRINCIPLES

Paul told Timothy in **II Timothy 3:16** that “*all Scripture.....is profitable*” and then he proceeded to mention four specific functions of the Word of God; “*doctrine*” “*reproof*” “*correction*” “*instruction*” THESE FOUR FUNCTIONS ARE THE PRINCIPLES AND STEPS TO A VALID AND HONEST APPLICATION! The **building blocks of a meaningful application!**



**DOCTRINE**-THE MAIN TEACHING OR SUBJECT OF THE PASSAGE  
**REPROOF**-THE EXPOSURE OF THAT WHICH IS CONTRARY TO GOD’S STANDARD  
**CORRECTION**-THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CHANGE WHAT HAS BEEN EXPOSED  
**INSTRUCTION**-THE AREA OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD IS TRAINING IN



USING THESE FOUR INTENDED FUNCTIONS OF THE WORD OF GOD AS APPLICATION PRINCIPLES:

**RELATE**-Connect the passage to your life.

**MEDITATE**-Digest the passage as it applies to you.

**FOCUS**-Fix your attention upon the aspect that is most needed in your life.

**PRAY**-For God’s help.

**PRACTICE**-What you have learned.



**EXAMPLES**

**PSALM 37:1-10**

**Doctrine**-What is the main subject or teaching?



**Look entirely to the Lord.**

**Reproof**-What possible reproof is there for me in my life and situation?



**Fretting & envy (verse 1), and anger, wrath, and evil (verse 8).**

**Correction**-What correction needs to be made in my life and what steps must I take to make these corrections?



**Fret not, and be not envious (verse 1). Cease from anger, forsake wrath, (verse 8).**

**Instruction**-What is the instruction to help me? In what area of righteousness is the Lord training?



**Do not lose sight of the real condition of evil doers (verse 2). Trust, Delight, Commit, and Rest (verses 3, 4, 5, 7).**

### **JAMES 1:19-26**

**Doctrine**-What is the main subject or teaching?



**A proper hearing of the Word of God.**

**Reproof**-What possible reproof is there for me in my life and situation?



**Not being ready to hear and the hearing the Word of God without it having an impact upon the life.**

**Correction**-What correction needs to be made in my life and what steps must I take to make these corrections?



**Be ready to hear (verse 19). Prepare the hear to receive the Word of God (verses 20-21).**

**Instruction**-What is the instruction to help me? In what area of righteousness is the Lord training?



**In order for the Word to be spiritually effective in my life, I need to “*receive with meekness the word*” (verse 21), and to put into practice the Word of God (verse 22).**

## ② MAKE PERSONAL APPLICATION BY ASKING AND ANSWERING PERSONAL AND DIRECT QUESTIONS

In light of the four intended functions of the Word of God; **Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Instruction** ask questions of yourself personal questions that apply to your heart, your attitude, your manner of living, your circumstances, and situations. ALL APPLICATION SHOULD BE SPECIFIC TO SELF, AND NOT MERE GENERALITIES! Therefore ask yourself questions that cause you to make honest examination, and that cause you to see your spiritual condition, and the direction of your life! BEWARE OF SELECTIVE APPLICATION! **Ask yourself:**



What is the **truth** that I can rest in?

Is there a **command** for me to obey?

Is there a **challenge** for me to heed?

Is there a **promise** for me to trust?

Is there an **example** for me to follow?

Is there an **error** for me to avoid?

Is there a **sin** for me to forsake?

Is there a **warning** for me to heed?

Is there an **attitude** for me to change or guard against?

Is there an **encouragement** for me to grasp?

Now **ask yourself examination questions such as:**



AM I?

DO I?

HAVE I?

WHEN I?

HOW AM I GOING TO RESPOND TO WHAT I HAVE JUST READ?



**EXAMPLES:**

**JAMES 1:19-26**

Is there a **truth** for me to rest in?



**God gives me opportunity to hear and to receive His Word (verses 19, 21).**

Is there a **command** for me to obey?



**Be ready to hear the Word of God (verses 19-22).**

Is there a **challenge** for me to heed?



**Always strive to be in a condition to receive the Word of God and making use of it in life.**

Is there a **promise** for me to trust?



**The Word of God is able to deliver my soul (verse 21). There is blessing in doing what the Word of God says (verse 25).**

Is there an **error** for me to avoid?



**The thinking that the wrath of man worketh the righteousness of God (verses 19-20). Not laying apart that which will be a hindrance to receiving the Word (verse 21). A casual approach to hearing the Word of God (verses 22-23).**

Is there a **sin** for me to forsake?



**The sin of not being prepared to receive the Word (verse 21). Being a hearer only (verse 23).**

Is there a **warning** to heed?



**Self-deceit (verse 22). Vain religion (verse 26).**

Is there an **attitude** for me to guard against or change?



**The attitude of pride and ill-will (verses 19-20).**

Is there an **encouragement** for me to grasp?



**I have opportunity to hear, to receive, to be benefited by the Word of God, and to practice the Word of God.**

NOW ASK YOURSELF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS SUCH AS:

AM I?

DO I?

HAVE I?

WHEN I?

HOW AM I GOING TO RESPOND TO WHAT I HAVE JUST READ?



#### EXAMPLE

*“let every man be swift to hear”* (verse 19). **Am I?** Read what is said in **verse 21** and ask **Do I?** In light of the statement made in **verse 22** *“hearers only deceiving your own selves”* ask **Have I** deceived myself in this manner? In light of **verses 23-24** ask **When I** hear the Word of God **Am I** like one who looks at themselves in the mirror and then neglects what they have seen? **How am I going to respond to this passage?** To make personal **application** of this passage; **HONESTLY EXAMINE THE CONDITION AND DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE IN REGARD TO THE SUBJECT OF HEARING THE WORD OF GOD AND DOING WHAT YOU HEAR!**

**JAMES 5:13-18**

Is there a **truth** for me to rest in?



**There is power in prayer.**

Is there a **command** for me to obey?



Pray (**verse 13**). Make request of others to pray (**verse 14**). Pray one for another (**verse 16**).

Is there a **challenge** for me to heed?



Pray earnestly (**verse 16**), and pray specifically (**verses 17-18**).

Is there a **promise** for me to trust?



**The Lord answers prayer (verses 15-18). The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (verse 16).**

Is there an **example** for me to follow?



**Elisha (verse 17).**

Is there an **error** for me to avoid?



**Not having a spirit of humility and concern for others (verse 16).**

Is there a **sin** for me to forsake?



**The sin of not praying, and not praying fervently.**

Is there a **warning** for me to heed?



**Not being in a condition to pray (verse 16), and laxity in prayer.**

Is there an **attitude** for me to guard against or change?



**The attitude of pride and self-reliance (verses 14-16).**

Is there an **encouragement** for me to grasp?



*“Elisha was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed” (verse 17).*

NOW ASK YOURSELF **EXAMINATION QUESTIONS** THAT CAUSE YOU TO HONESTLY EXAMINE THE CONDITION AND DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE REGARDING THE MATTER OF PRAYER!



**EXAMPLE:**

In light of **verse 13** **Do I** seek others to pray for me? In light of *“pray one for another” (verse 16)*, **Am I** praying for others? In light of *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (verse 16)*, **Am I** in a condition to pray? **When I** pray are my prayers effectual, fervent, and earnest? **How am I going to respond to this passage?**

In Making Personal Application:

**CONNECT**

In answering the questions make direct and specific connections to your life.

**CONSIDER**

Digest the entire passage integrate it into your life.

**CONCENTRATE**

Focus upon a specific aspect of the passage that is most needed in your life.

**CALL**

Call upon God for help to put into practice what has been revealed.

**CONFORM**

With the help of God make a conscious effort to conform.