

KNOWING GOD'S WORD

Time spent studying God's Word; meditating on it; learning, knowing and understanding it; filling the deepest recesses of our hearts and foremost memories of our minds with its riches is, firstly, commanded by, and therefore in obedience to scripture itself. It is an opportunity to spend time with God, honoring Him and preparing ourselves for the many purposes and benefits of becoming increasingly and more intimately aware of the supreme Author and His preserved, unchanging Truth. We must then discipline ourselves to go forth in daily living armed and equipped with its guidance and power, motivated by appreciation and gratitude for God's perfect goodness to us, always aware of His presence. With determination and enthusiasm, we answer God's call to obedience by applying His precepts with ever increasing wisdom. Ultimately, our goal in Christian maturity is to do nothing without including Him in. For without Him we can do nothing (Jn 15:5); with Him, all things are possible (Mk 10:27) and all things succeed (2Co 9:8) according to His purpose (Phl 2:13).

NOTE: See separate study entitled "[Christian Maturity](#)."

The worthiness of God's Word

- 2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Ps 18:30a As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.
- Ps 19:7-11 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. ¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. ¹¹By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- Pr 30:5 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
- Ps 111:7-8 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. ⁸They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.
- Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Studying, teaching, spreading the Word; passing it down and along

In the Old Testament

- Ex 19:7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.
- Dt 5:1 Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them.
- Dt 4:9b Teach them to your children and to their children after them.
- Dt 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
- Dt 11:18-20 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ¹⁹Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,
- Dt 31:11b-13a you shall read this law before them in their hearing. ¹²Assemble the people--men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns--so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. ¹³Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God
- Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the aliens who lived among them.
- 2Ki 23:1-3 Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ²He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets--all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. ³The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD--to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.
- Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.
- Neh 8:2-8, 12 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. ⁴Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion ... ⁵Ezra opened the book.

All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷The Levites ... instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. ... ¹²Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

- Neh 8:18a Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God.
- Neh 9:3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God.
- Pr 22:17-19a Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, ¹⁸for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. ¹⁹So that your trust may be in the LORD,

In the New Testament

- Lk 10:25-26 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"
- Mt 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31 Haven't you read...?
- Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.
- Act 2:42a They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
- Act 6:2-4 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."
- Act 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.
- Act 8:30-31 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
- Act 12:24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.
- Act 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.
- Act 13:7b The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

- Act 15:21 For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."
- Act 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.
- Act 18:11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.
- Act 19:9b-10 He (Paul) took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.
- Act 19:20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.
- Rom 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
- Col 1:25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-
- 1Th 5:27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.
- 1Ti 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.
- 2Ti 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction.

The purpose and benefit of applying His Word

- Dt 4:5-8 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?
- (Eph 3:10-11 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.)
- Lev 25:18 "Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.
- Jos 1:7-8 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
- Dt 4:40a Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you

- Dt 5:29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!
- Dt 6:1-2 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.
- Dt 12:28 Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.
- Dt 29:9 Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do.
- Dt 30:16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.
- Ps 78:5-7 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

NOTE: For examples from the New Testament which apply to the sections above and below, see the "Exhortation to application" section in the "Christian Maturity" study.

Using the Word as our guide for life and practice

- Ex 18:15-16 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. ¹⁶Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws."
- Ex 18:20 Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.
- Lev 10:10-11 You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, ¹¹and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses."
- Dt 17:18-20 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.
- Dt 32:45-47a When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. ⁴⁷They are not just idle words for you--they are your life.

1Ki 22:5b "First seek the counsel of the LORD."
 Isa 48:17 This is what the LORD says--your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.
 Ps 119 (All)
 Phil 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Seek Truth; obtain knowledge, understanding, wisdom, discernment

(See this titled section in separate study entitled "Christian Maturity.")

Walking with God; yearning for God and His Word

Gen 5:24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.
 Gen 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God
 Mic 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
 Dt 5:32-33 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, (so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.)
 Dt 10:12-13 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?
 1Ki 2:3 and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,
 Isa 26:8-9a Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. ⁹My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you.
 Jer 30:21b for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?' declares the LORD.
 Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
 Ps 62:1-2 My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. ²He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
 Ps 63:1a O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
 Ps 63:8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
 Ps 84:1-2 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! ²My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
 Ps 86:4 Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

- Ps 119:20 My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.
- Ps 119:81 My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.
- Ps 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. ⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.
- Ps 143:6 I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
- Ps 112:1 Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.
- Isa 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- Ps 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Warnings/dangers of time away from/"without" God and His Word

- Dt 4:9a Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live.
- Dt 8:11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.
- Dt 11:16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.
- Dt 30:14-18 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. ¹⁵See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.
- Num 15:37-40 The LORD said to Moses, ³⁸"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. ³⁹You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. ⁴⁰Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God.
- Isa 48:18 If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
- Jer 32:23b but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster upon them.