

Lesson 5, Sabbath & April 26

How to Study the Bible

Memory Text: Isaiah 55:11 “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

- Think back = to first time you received a Bible
- Whether given to you / as child = or you purchased /as adult
- However it came to you = **that Book was not an accident**
 - It was = gift from heaven
- Not ordinary ink on paper = It is God speaking / right now
- But must ask ourselves an honest question:
 - **What place does = Word of God = hold in my life now?**
- Is it one of my = most treasured possessions?
- OR—has it quietly become something I assume will always be there
 - unopened / untouched / waiting?
- Many of us = don't struggle = because we don't love God
- Struggle because we don't know **where to start / how to stay consistent / or how to slow down enough to truly hear His voice**
- Bible is not just information = Scripture brings **transformation**

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”

- Living / Powerful /Active = Not dead book / but a living voice
- Bible study not a matter of discipline alone = comes from **desire**
- And desire grows when we make **time**

Sunday **TIME [The Battle for Time]**

- God once told me = “Time is life. How you invest your time is how you invest your life.” How are we investing our lives?
- Ever set your alarm earlier to read Bible = only to hit snooze
 - and promise yourself, “Tomorrow”?
- Ever looked at clock / thought, “I have 15 minutes—better hurry,” and rushed thru a prayer / skimmed a chapter / and walked away w/ your conscience appeased—but your heart still empty?
- Ellen White wrote: “There is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures.”
- God gave us His Word = to reveal Himself / His plan for our lives
- **Psalm 46:10** “Be still, and know that I am God.”
- Cannot know God deeply in a hurry
- Bible = record of God’s relentless pursuit of humanity
 - His mercy / His patience / His justice / His love
- But relationship = requires **communication / presence**
- Many of us miss / first step = because we try to study Bible **without first asking God to give us hunger**
- I pray = Give me unquenchable desire for Your inexhaustible Word
- Sometimes prayer is not, “Lord, help me understand,”
 - but, **“Lord, help me want You more.”**

Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

- Ask Him to = reorder your priorities
- Ask Him to = free time in your schedule
- Ask Him to = wake you earlier
 - God never ignores / prayer for deeper communion
- **Surrendering Our Time** = Time/ one thing we guard most fiercely—and surrender least easily
- We say, “I’m too busy.” = But we make time for what we value

Mark 1:35 “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

- If Son of God needed time alone w/ Father
 - how much more do we?
- Go somewhere quiet / open your Bible
- Read **Psalm 46:10** Be still, and know that I am God
 - Stillness is not inactivity = stillness is attention
- Ask God to reveal areas of your life not yet surrendered—
because unsundered hearts / struggle to hear God clearly
- Sing, or pray, or whisper, “I surrender all.”
- Some mornings you **won’t feel spiritual**
- When Scripture feels dry / prayer feels awkward
 - Go to God anyway
- Relationships are built on faithfulness = not feelings
- Just as physical health requires daily choices = exercise / nutrition / rest = spiritual health requires / intentional habits
- And habits take time = but you are not doing this alone

Zechariah 4:6 reminds us “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord.

- Ask Holy Spirit to speak to your heart as you read
- Ask Him to teach you = ask Him to guide you

Psalm 143:8 ⁸Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You. **Psalm 143:10–11** ¹⁰Teach me to do Your
will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of
uprightness. ¹¹Revive me, O LORD, for Your name’s sake! For Your
righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble.

John 15:4–5, “Abide in Me, and I in you... without Me you can do nothing.”

- Abiding is not occasional = it is continual connection
- When we abide in Christ thru His Word, we are not merely informed—we are **changed**.
- **Johm 15:7** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”
- Word /shapes our prayers = prayer should be 2-way conversation
- God speaks to us thru His Word = and we give Him thanks for His promises / pray them back to Him / along w/our supplication
- Our prayers shape our lives = our lives bear fruit

CLOSING THOUGHT:

- Bible = not ordinary ink on paper. It is God speaking—right now.
- **Isaiah 55:11** assures us that **His Word never returns empty**.
Every moment spent in Scripture is accomplishing something eternal—even when you don’t feel it.
- So don’t rush / don’t skim /don’t settle for religious routine
- Open Word / Read / Sit still = Listen
 - And let the living God meet you there
- Because when you make time for His Word
 - **His Word will make you new**