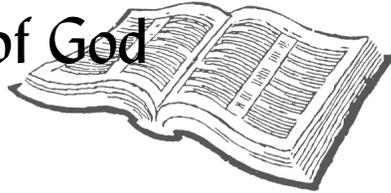


# Reading and Practicing the Precious Word of God



## *Psalm 119:97-112*

Prevent truth decay; read the Bible every day (*1 Pet. 2:2*). Seven days without Bible reading makes one weak. The Bible that is falling apart (because of use, not abuse) usually belongs to someone who is not. “I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible” (D. L. Moody). The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible (*Psalm 119:11*). When you study the Bible “hit or miss,” you will miss more than you hit. Don’t read the Bible looking for difficulties; read the Bible looking for truth (*John 8:31-36*). The Bible is a unique Book—its Author is always present when one reads it.

**Questions to ask:** Is there any command to obey? Is there any promise to believe? Is there a good example to follow? Is there a sin to avoid? What does this teach me about God? What can I thank God for? How can I personally apply the truth which I have just read to my life?

 Read the Word **lovingly**. It is God’s love letter to you.

 Read **regularly**. God’s Word is to be valued more than your necessary food (*Job 23:12*).

 Read the Word **slowly**. Let it sink in.

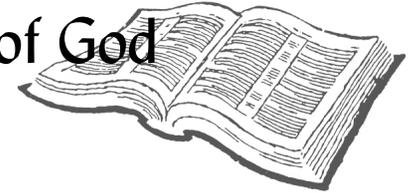
 Read the Word **prayerfully**. You cannot understand it apart from the Spirit’s illumination (*Psalm 119:18*).

 Read the Word **carefully**. Study it through; pray it in so it becomes part of you; pass it along to others.

Don’t be a “Dead Sea Christian” with an inlet but no outlet. Your life is the world’s Bible; they are reading it all the time (*2 Cor. 3:2*). It is a great responsibility to own a Bible (*Luke 12:48*). We are Bible-believers; let us be **Bible-behavers** as well (*James 1:22*). “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (*3 John 4*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)

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