

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Keys to Understanding the Bible (Acts 8:30-31)
Lesson 3 – Getting the Most Out of the Bible**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

The Purpose of the Bible

The Bible is the primary way God has revealed Himself (His thoughts, ways, and principles) to us as humans. It is written for our benefit. However, getting the most out of the Bible, including all the benefits God intended, requires a lot of engagement on our part with the Bible. Lack of engagement leads to lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6 says *“my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”*

***Romans 15:4** “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

***2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Thankfully, the Bible itself is not silent on this subject, it gives us a lot of ways we can engage and can get the most out of it. Today, we are going to learn more about how we are supposed to engage the Bible so that we can enjoy the riches in it for us.

***Proverbs 4:20-22** “My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. (NKJV)*

***Joshua 1:8-9** “his Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Let’s look at seven ways given to us in the bible to engage it:

1. Hearing the Word of God: Hearing is usually the first engagement most people will have with the Word of God. Most of us get saved by hearing the Word of God. Speaking the Word (through preaching and teaching) is one of the primary ways the Word is communicated to people.

***Romans 10:14** “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (NKJV).*

***Rom. 10:17** “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (NKJV).*

Question: What are the ways we Hear the Word of God?

However, speaking must be accompanied by proper hearing. That is why Jesus said in Luke 8:18. *“...pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”*

- In hearing we must be attentive.
- In hearing we must be open minded.

2. Reading the Word of God: Proper hearing of the Word of God will naturally lead us to reading the Word. In fact, the role of teachers is to stimulate our interest in reading the Word.

- Reding the Word of God allows us to personally engage the word of God.
- Reading the Word of God helps us to be familiarized with the language of God and of the Holy Spirit.

How to make the most of your Bible reading.

- Be systematic.
- Be consistent.
- Be prayerful.

3. Studying the Word of God: Hearing and reading the Word of God properly and consistently will lead to studying the Word. As you listen and read the Word of God, you are going to notice patterns, deeper issues, and subjects of interest that will require in-depth studies. These will prompt you to want to study more closely and rigorously to gain more knowledge and uncover more truths from the Word.

Question: What are differences between reading and studying the Word of God?

Acts 17:11 “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- Studying requires more focus and takes a lot more time than reading.
- Studying often involves using more materials such as study bibles, concordances, history, and commentaries.

4. Memorizing the Word of God: Memorizing the Word of God has always been something God wants His children to do. Even in the Old Testament, God commanded the children of Israel to memorize the Word of God. *Deuteronomy 11:18* “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Benefits of memorization:

- Memorizing the Word of God allows it to become the sword of the Spirit.
- It helps us to be a blessing to others.
- Allows us to recall the Word.
 - *1 Timothy 1:18* “Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well.
 - *Psalms 119:11* “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

5. Meditating on the Word of God: Memorization leads to meditation. To meditate is to ponder upon. Meditation means thinking about what God's Word says, perhaps writing it down (journaling) so that you can go over it throughout the day. You can even try to prayerfully ask what God is saying to you about Himself through His word and what he wants you to do in response.

- Meditation leads to deeper understanding.
- Meditation leads to a deeper interaction with God and with the Holy Spirit.
- Meditation allows the Word to go from our mind into our heart.

6. Doing the Word of God: The ultimate goal of scripture is to gain wisdom, and wisdom is doing. Doing the Word does not happen overnight, it requires many of the other engagements we've mentioned above.

- *James 1:22* “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)
- *Matthew 7:24-25* “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (NKJV).

7. Speaking the Word of God: Every believer is supposed to teach the Word in one capacity or the other. This could be through evangelism, to our children at home, small groups etc. Speaking the Word activates faith in others and leads to a multiplying effect of the power of the Word of God.

- *Colossians 3:16* “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
- *Hebrews 5:12* “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!. (NIV)
- *2 Timothy 2:2* “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (NIV).