

## ***FIVE WORDS TO GET YOU GOING***

A daily time in God's Word will grow you and strengthen you spiritually. Regardless of what method you use in daily Bible study, *that* you have a daily time in God's Word is more important than *how* you have your daily time. I want to share with you five words, and five corresponding words that hopefully will give you the purpose behind each word and will help you in your daily time in God's Word.

### **1. EVALUATION – gain**

Evaluation is an important first step in Bible study. Just as an exercise program begins with an evaluation of what you are attempting to accomplish, so too does a daily time in God's Word begin with an evaluation of what you are hoping to accomplish. The number one reason for Bible study is to have an encounter with the living God and being transformed daily by that encounter.

### **2. EXPECTATION – growth**

If you give yourself to a consistent and daily time in reading and studying God's Word, you will experience spiritual growth. The growth will be slow, and you may not even notice it. Others may and will notice the growth. The point is spiritual growth is a guarantee if you read and apply God's Word.

### **3. MOTIVATION – God**

Bible study for the Christian is not an option. The goal of Bible study is an encounter with God that results in spiritual transformation. Paul wrote this about the motivation for Bible study, a verse some of you may know:

***2 Tim. 2.15:*** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

Just in this one verse of Scripture alone there are three value points for the study of God's Word:

1. Bible study enables you to be an approved workman for God.
2. Bible study builds confidence in your walk with God.
3. Bible study equips you to handle God's Word more accurately.

### **4. CELEBRATION – goals**

Goals in Bible study are what you set. For instance, you may set as your goal to journal through the Book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth is only four short chapters. So, your long-term goal is to journal through Ruth. When you finish the first chapter, you are one quarter there, certainly something to celebrate. Goals both long-term and short-term are important because it gives you the sense of getting somewhere. The apostle Paul himself was a goal setter. Listen to the goal Paul set for himself:

***PHIL. 3.13-14:*** *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

## **5. FRUSTRATION – gum**

There is nothing spiritual here with this point, and no, the word ‘gum’ is not an acronym for anything. Gum is gum, you know, chewing gum. I use this because stepping on gum is frustrating; it is a pain to clean off and it just makes a mess. When you step on gum you no doubt have some choice words for the person who carelessly spit it out so you could step on it!

Frustrations in Bible study are going to come. You can have the best of intentions when it comes to Bible study, and then you cannot find your Bible, or you slept late, or your alarm clock did not go off and a thousand other things get in your way. You do your best to set aside a time every day for Bible study and you still get interrupted. Frustrations will come, plan for them, and power through them.

Nothing takes the place of a daily time in God’s Word. Think of daily Bible study this way: your daily time in God’s Word is an appointment with God, the God of the universe, the God of creation. Because God is who He is, make it a non-negotiable in your life to keep that appointment. Your spiritual growth and health depend on it.

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