

Lesson 5: God's Eternal Word (Part 2)

In the last lesson we saw that just as we need food every day, we need the Word of God every day in order to keep our faith alive and strong, and in order to keep us in union with God. It would be hard to stay alive if we only ate once a week. And it would be hard to keep our faith alive and growing if we only get God's word once a week. Without a daily diet in the Word of the Lord our spiritual life can easily become a spiritual desert, and leading a victorious Christian life can for the glory of the Lord become almost impossible. The more of God's Word we can take in, the more we will experience the power of God in our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16

What are four things the Word of God does in our lives?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

How is God's Word like a . . .

Road map _____

Love letter _____

Seed _____

Sword _____

Do you think that every Christian needs at least one Bible? _____ Why? _____

Why should we have the habit of bringing our Bible to church? _____

There are many methods for getting the Word of God into our lives and hearts. In this lesson we will discuss five common methods of Scripture intake: Hearing, reading, study, memorizing and meditating on the Word.

Hearing:

Where is the best place to hear God's Word? _____

Does it hurt us if we miss church? _____ Why? _____

What should we pray before every sermon or Bible class? _____

What are some ways we can get more out of listening to God's Word? _____

Reading:

In the last lesson we suggested that you read a section of God's Word every day as

part of your _____.

If we are not into the habit of reading God's Word every day, we need to start this habit if we want to grow in the faith. If we have not done this in the past, where is the best place in the

Bible to start reading. _____

Suggestions:

If you are just beginning the habit of reading the Bible every day as part of your quiet time, DO NOT START BIG. START SMALL. do not try to read too much at a time. If you are just starting the discipline of exercise for your body, you need to start small and work up. If you don't you will soon get discouraged. It is the same way with the study of God's Word. Start small and work up: maybe just a chapter a day until you are ready for more and it becomes a habit in your life. But eventually you will find, nobody can read just one.

Study:

What is the difference between reading and studying the Word of God? _____

What are some ways our church helps you to be a student of God's Word?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Being a student of God's Word at home and in the classes at church takes extra work. Many people, even some Christians, make all kind of excuses for not studying God's Word at home and at church. People have all kinds of time for T.V., sports, computers, visiting friends and family, and all kinds of other activities, but have little, if no time for the study of God's Word. This is spiritual laziness and cannot be accepted as part of our new life in Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not build up treasures here on this earth, but rather build up treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

What does Jesus mean by what He says in the last sentence? _____

Is there any excuse for not studying God's Word?

Make it a habit to participate in the Sunday classes and mid-week classes that are available. Take the Alive in Christ class at least one every three years in order to stay sharp on the basics that are taught in that class. Study God's Word at home.

Memorizing:

Why is memorizing Bible passages so helpful? _____

Every time Jesus was tempted, how did He respond? _____

Suggestions:

Again, START SMALL. In your personal study of God's Word, select a passage that you want to put in your memory. Write in on a card, and keep going over it until you know it by memory. Learn also where the passage is found in the Bible. Begin with one a week and slowly work up if you can. You will be surprised on how helpful some memorized parts of God's Word can be in your life. Start with John 3:16.

Meditating:

To meditate is "to think deeply, to reflect." Meditation on a Scripture is prayerful reflection to understand and apply the Word completely to our lives. The more we meditate on the Word, the more our lives conform to it. The Word of God gets deep into our hearts and

becomes part of us. Take a part of God's Word (maybe the same verse you are trying to memorize) and think deeply about it many times during the day, applying it completely to your life.

HOMEWORK

1. Be working on your quiet time. Set aside a little time each day for the study and reading of God's Word and for prayer. If you have never done this before as a habit, start small.
2. Spend some time this week in meditation over the following verse: *Ephesians 4:32*

Be turning this passage around in your mind as you are at work or in your car or wherever. What does it say? What does it mean? How does it apply to you? What is its basic idea? Is there something in your life that is different from what this passage says? Why is what this verse asks of us important? How can you remove, in your life, any problems that get in the way of doing what this verse says? What other parts of the Bible does this relate to? Are there any examples in the Bible that show this verse in action?

3. Memorize the verse in number 2.
4. Write a prayer below asking God to make Ephesians 4:32 happen in your life.