

Exploring the Bible
Using Study Tools

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March, 2019

This book is dedicated to
all those who desire to progress in using their
study time in order to mature and live
a glorified life unto God.

A special mention of appreciation to
Cynda Jerger and Deborah Garner
for their friendship, encouragement,
and patience for reviewing this resource and
providing feedback.

Also, to my husband Brian for his always kind and
supportive attitude and ongoing feedback.

Rejoicing in the Lord!

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Introduction

This book is meant to be a resource for students who would like to find new ways to examine God's Word. When utilized, these tools can help develop an excitement to read, study, and learn. They were compiled over a lifetime, through personal study in the Scriptures, along with observing and listening to teachers and pastors.

This listing of study tools provides options that can help saints understand the glorious Word of God. Try using one or two, from time to time, or consult this list to assist when passages seem overly difficult. It can also be used by teachers to encourage students to progress, energizing them in understanding the wonderful Word of God.

Over-focusing on study tools or methods can exalt them, rather than God's Holy Scriptures. These are mere tools to assist a student to more easily acquire some of what God has placed in the Bible. Simply reading with meditation is how God enables a student to learn and grow, being led by the Spirit. (*I Corinthians 2:10-12, Romans 8:14*) These tools are a support when reading and rereading the Word.



Purpose to read through the Scriptures on an ongoing basis and as often as possible, with special emphasis on the doctrine written 'to us' in Paul's epistles (*II Timothy 2:15*). This enables the Spirit to transform your mind, to conform it into the image of Christ (*Romans 8:29*), teach you how to live unto God (*Romans 6*), and so much more. Read with questions in mind: "Is this written to me?" "Do I really believe this passage?" "How can I apply this in my life?" Or, "Is this working in me?" Enjoy exploring God's Word!

**Believe the gospel so you can have
peace with God and live
forever with Him!**

Trust the Scripture, as it is God's own living Word! Christ's shed blood on the cross paid for your sin. His great love sacrifice gave you the opportunity to believe and have eternal life. Read Romans 1-5 as it teaches how to be just or righteous before God. It's a free gift!



- 1) *"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God..." (Romans. 3:23)*
- 2) *"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And was buried, and that he rose again the third day..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)*
- 3) *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God set forth to be a propitiation [fully satisfying sacrifice] through faith in his blood..." (Romans 3:25)*

JUST BELIEVE

Please feel free to copy and use this resource
to assist others and to edify the saints.
Requests for additional copies can be
forwarded to this writer or obtained
through Amazon.

To God Be The Glory!

I. Why Do So Many Have Trouble Reading God's Word?

Most of us know that throughout the Scriptures God instructs us to read His Word. In the Old Testament, Israel was told: *"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and*



bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." (Deuteronomy 11:18) Paul tells Timothy to *"...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them..." (I Timothy 4:13,15)*

However, for many, even thinking about reading the Scriptures can produce a feeling of dread, with a touch of anxiety. It can seem boring to read, especially when it's not clearly understood. For some, it feels a bit like work, often without clear or immediate help for problems. Thus, procrastination results, and even an aversion to reading.

Yet, *Proverbs 8:11* helps man to see it is to be cherished above all things, even as precious jewels: *"For wisdom is better than rubies: and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."* In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ puts an exclamation point on this teaching. He reminds us of *Job 23:12*: the Word is more important than even our necessary, physical food (*Matt. 4:4*).

Reading and believing the Word of God is how we develop faith: *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)* Our Father talks to us personally by the Scriptures and then places it in our hearts as we believe.

God enables the Word to powerfully work within us, using His Spirit to teach us: *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*

So, why is reading Scripture pushed aside, to be a last priority? If we walk in the flesh, **we just do not want to** prioritize reading the Bible. Instead, we are driven to serve our fleshly desires. The flesh is quite powerful and experienced at making excuses and justifying itself, such as: “I’m not a reader!” Or, “I have grace, I don’t have to read or apply it!” Others relay: “It is not my gift to read and study.” “I am just too busy.” “I am a low energy person.” “It is too hard to deal with my flesh.” Or, “I can’t understand it; I’m going to trust the scholars.”



There is a battle between our flesh and spirit: *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one*

*to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” (Galatians 5:17) Yet, we can be fully persuaded that **God is able** to help. (Romans 4:21)*

Reading the Word on a daily basis may be a hard habit for you to develop. Yet, know that it is the most significant decision you will make as a believer. When it is read, God deposits His wisdom and power in your inner man to teach and guide you: *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)*

There are a million things in this world that can pull you off track and away from your true hope and help. This is one of Satan’s desires. Don’t let him keep you confused or blind to the Truth: *“In whom*



the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (II Corinthians 4:4)

There is a clear cut thing God desires for you to do once you trust Christ and His blood. He desires you to read His Word so He can talk to you and help you grow and negotiate this present evil world. He asks you to read it, because He wants the very best for you.

II. Developing the Habit of Reading

God provides us with a simple method: Yield to allow Him to set aside the flesh, then walk by faith. Simply put, trust God and His power. *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” (Romans 6:12)*



As you walk down the road of life, self-centered thinking will entice you to the left, to please the flesh. Instead, yield to the right, God’s way. Decide ahead of time to yield unto God. Make a plan to read the Word and then, do it! *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Romans 6:13)*

How and where to start: To begin this new habit, start with simply reading the Scripture. If you have a favorite book in the Bible, start there to capture your interest. However, the book of Romans is the book that will establish you in the faith, so it’s the best book to start with for spiritual growth. *“For I long to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.” (Romans 1:11)* You could read a chapter in your favorite book and then, one in *Romans* each day. Or, you could just slowly proceed through *Romans*.

Scripture it is not a manmade book; the God of heaven and earth created it! So, realize in advance that you may need to reread passages to gain understanding of what God wrote. Scripture has an eternal depth and nature to it and takes a lifetime to study. Spiritual maturity is a slow process, so, we will not acquire it all at once. It was designed as our daily living manual to help us learn and grow throughout a lifetime.



We all are on a journey of learning and may have difficulty with certain concepts or passages. Since God does invisible work in the inner man, sometimes we need to grow further in an area to understand weightier things. Put questions, which seem unattainable, to the side for the time being. Keep reading, but come back later to revisit the topic.

God has placed the Holy Spirit within to help us gain understanding of the deep things of God: *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:12)* God is personally teaching us as we yield in faith and allow Him to lead. *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)*

III. Study Tools Can Help Us Become Enthusiastic Explorers

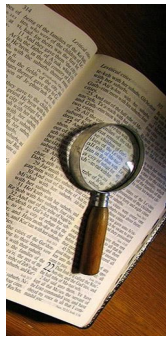
How do study tools help students gain an excitement for reading and studying? These tools can empower the student to examine chapters and verses in more detail, helping them with difficult passages. They provide options to dig deeper and obtain understanding, exploring the many facets of a passage, that at first, may seem frustrating, dull, or even boring. Most tools also help us see how Scripture is applicable for day-to-day life, helping us mature as Christians and live as who we are in Christ.



It is equally helpful for advanced believers who instruct others. Teachers can use them as a resource to ask themselves questions: What approach is best to instruct my student? What does my student need? Where is the best place to start?

Study insights and methods can give us choices to approach the Word in new ways. As we learn various options to study and understand the Scriptures, we are empowered believers and less dependent upon others to know the who, what, when, where, why, and how of God's Word. We learn how to find many of our own answers, trusting the Spirit within to help us with this learning process. Being able to navigate the Bible is a mighty resource.

The tools in this list help us to attain spiritual teachings, functioning as the noble Bereans: “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so.*” (Acts 17:11)



As time goes by, students will see that most of these study options are actually taught to us over time in the Word itself. God desires us to pay attention to the many facets contained in the Word. It is an eternal book that will teach us everything He desires us to know while living on this earth. It is our perfect, complete instruction.

Study Opportunity: God Himself teaches us about Bible study tools:

- 1) While reading the Word, look for the ways God teaches the importance of words, repeating ‘key words’ in a section so the student will take notice i.e. Romans 2: ‘Judgest,’ ‘judgment,’ ‘judge,’ etc.
- 2) There are also ‘helping words’ used to assist the reader to connect ideas or give further explanation. This is often seen at the beginning of verses or new sections. For example, *Romans 3:21-28*: ‘For,’ ‘therefore,’ ‘but now,’ etc.
- 3) Notice how questions are used to teach the reader throughout the Bible: *Genesis 3:9,11, 4:6-10, Job 38, Jonah 4:4,9-11*. Count how many questions Paul uses to teach in *Romans 2:1-9*. Why were they used and is this an effective method to teach? Explain how.

IV. How to Use This List of Study Tools

First, it is suggested that the student read through the study tool list at least once to become familiar with it as a resource of options. There are many ways to use this collection of tools, which can help motivate new and exciting ways to study the Word. You can use it for yourself, but also for those in your ministry.



Here are a few ideas:

1. To get started, choose any of the tools that seems simple to apply or is of special interest. Study passages by using this technique. When you feel ready, select another easy tool.
2. Begin by using them in order; use the first study tool in the list. Take a week or two to study using this tool. As you are ready, progress to use Study Tool #2.
3. When you have difficulty with understanding a verse or section, use this resource. Scan the list for a tool that seems helpful to your circumstances and then apply it.
4. Help others: Copy and hand out the list of tools to an individual or a group. Explain and demonstrate how to use a few of the study tools to empower and help them get started with using the resource.
5. Study group: Introduce one tool and show the students how to apply it as you teach your lesson. Practice its use until they are comfortable, then ask the group to pick the next tool.

Personal Notes

V. Study Tools

1. Application of Scripture: Read a verse or section and think about the verses. First, determine if you understand what is being taught, then, look for ways to yield and apply it in your life. For example, read *Romans 6:1-2*: “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid...*” Think whether you continue to sin as a believer. Do you really know what sin is? Since the verse says it does matter to God what you do, maybe there are areas you need to change. Pray and meditate on the passage to make needed changes as you yield to God. Learn to grow.



2. Ask yourself questions: As you progress through a passage or chapter, make time to think, meditate, and pray about what it is teaching. Use the ‘Who, what, when, where, why, and how approach’ in analyzing the verse: “To whom is it referring?” “What is the topic in this section?” “Why is that being said here?” Additionally, don’t forget to look at the passage from a practical application point of view. “How does it relate to me?” Or, “How can I apply this in my life?” The process of asking questions can make Scripture come alive.

3. Change in subject, topic, or who is being addressed: Sometimes Paul changes the focus within a chapter. It is critical to be aware of changes to

understand what is being taught. *Romans 11* is an example. Paul focuses on three groups of people: a) *Verses 1-12*: God's people, Israel, b) *Verses 13-24*: Gentiles, and c) *Verses 25-32*: Brethren in the Body of Christ. Questions or helping words/phrases i.e. 'For,' 'but,' 'contrariwise.' are often used to assist readers to see a change/new topic.

4. Comparisons and contrasts: God uses this approach to teach various concepts. Read slowly to notice and meditate on them for further understanding. Two examples: a) As you read Paul's epistles, notice distinct similarities and differences between Israel and the Body of Christ. b) *Romans 5* contrasts Adam with the Lord Jesus Christ. Specific comparison-contrasting phrases are used: 'not as,' 'like as,' 'so also,' 'even so,' etc. In some cases, it may help to make a side-by-side list of what is being taught for each subject in the comparison/contrast analysis. Then, evaluate how the two lists are different and similar. This kind of study can reveal a concrete picture.



5. Connections: Purpose to look for relationships within the Word: One verse, chapter, or book connects with surrounding verses. A passage can continue a topic or key word as Paul builds onto concepts already presented. Two examples: a) *Romans 4* builds clarity about faith, building onto what was just taught in *Chapter 3*. It also refers to prior

Old Testament teaching i.e. Abraham and David. *Romans 5:1-2* continues this faith theme. b) *Romans* lays out basic establishing doctrines like living godly, and loving others. *I & II Corinthians* build onto this *Romans* doctrine, but focuses more on application and correcting areas in a saint's walk.

6. Context: Notice the setting, events, and who is being addressed or dealt with in a passage by paying attention to terms or key phrases near the passage being studied. Each provide clues to help a student gain clarity. Whatever book of the Bible you are about to read, look at the first chapter to find 'to whom' it was written. Always note the context before applying a verse to your life i.e. Some passages are written directly 'to Israel,' while others are 'to the Body of Christ.' We need to rightly divide the Word. (*II Timothy 2:15*)

7. Definitions: Use a dictionary to find clarity in the meaning of a word, noting that some have multiple meanings. For example, *Romans 3:4* says, "...That thou mightest be **justified** in thy sayings..." This case is not referring to being justified unto eternal life, but that God is proven 'just' (right) in His sayings.



8. Goal of a book: In order to find the goal for each of Paul's books, look in the first chapter. Often it's in the opening verses or prayer (*Romans 1:11* is the goal of the book.) As a student matures, his view of the book's goal may adjust a bit.

9. Grace & law words: Sometimes words are used to express grace: 'I beseech you,' 'might,' 'let,' 'receive,' 'speak by permission,' etc. In contrast, other words are law oriented: 'Obey,' 'shalt not,' 'beware,' 'command,' etc. Examine *Roman 14:1-3* to find a contrast of law-grace words.


10. Helping words/phrases: The Bible uses terms or phrases, especially at the start of a verse, to assist understanding as one reads or studies. Reflect on why they are there and how they can help. Defining these common helping words can prove interesting. A few examples: 'Therefore' and 'so then,' summarize or conclude. Phrases like, 'time past,' 'now,' 'but now,' or 'to come,' indicate time demarcations. 'It is written' refers the student back to the original passage. 'As it is written,' refers to something similar to a prior passage. 'For,' often provides the purpose or further explanation to what is being addressed. If you have trouble understanding a section, determine to look at these words, which provide clues for clarity.



11. Illustrations: God uses parables or concrete examples to help the reader understand and apply doctrine: a) Parables: *Matthew 13* is the sower and the seed. b) Paul: As our Apostle and pattern, notice when he uses himself as an example, or indicates what he thinks i.e. *Romans 7:7,11:13, & 15:16-17*. c) *Romans 11*: Grafting of the olive tree.

12. Individualize: Tailor your reading-study time to meet your own needs and interests. a) Stop and explore a passage that is interesting to you. b) If a word pops up as strange or interesting, define it, think on it, or do a topical or word study. c) Purpose to look for things as you read a book i.e. *Acts*: Notice things it says about Paul or the main character of the section, etc. d) If you had a conversation with someone about baptism, look at what Paul teaches in his epistles about baptism.

13. Instruction: When Paul gives a direction or correction, he will also provide the way to fulfill it. When you see an instruction, look for the 'how to.' Examples: a) *Romans 12:1* instructs, and the verses that follow give the 'how to.' b) *I Corinthians 11:18-22* addresses problems in Corinth and *Verses 23-34* are the method to correct their thinking.

 **14. Key words and phrases:** These are words repeatedly used and are a flag to the student. It indicates an important topic or concept. For example, in *I Corinthians 2* the term 'wisdom' is used 6 times, and the word, 'things' is used 7 times. Defining key words and thinking about their context can be helpful to gain further insight into a passage.

15. Long passages: When there is a run-on sentence, pause to notice the punctuation. It enables a student to logically separate ideas of the teaching.

i.e. *Ephesians 1:15-23* is one long sentence. As you notice the punctuation, be sure you understand how commas, semi-colons, or colons are used. Define punctuation marks to help you separate verses into understandable parts. Notice as a topic changes or when a list of things occurs.



16. Looking back and ahead:

Look back: When a verse is quoted in a passage or if you have a question, go back and look at the verse being referred to

within its context. Glean the details and fullness of what has been taught. Examples give clarity:

a) *Romans 4:1-5* refers the student back to *Genesis*, when Abraham believed God. Read about how Abraham developed faith in *Genesis 12-22*.

b) *Galatians 5:1*: If you have a question about the term bondage, look back for clarity: *Gal. 4:3,9,24-25*.

Look ahead: To obtain advanced teaching on a topic, look forward. Paul first addresses tribulation/suffering in *Romans 5:3-5*. Look ahead to find advanced teaching on the suffering topic in *Romans 8:17-39* and *II Corinthians 1:5-7*. Be alert to where you are in the form of doctrine when studying. *Romans* thru *Galatians* is foundational teaching. *Ephesians* thru *Philemon* is more advanced.

17. Odd/confusing passages: When a section or verse continues to be hard to understand after reading, studying, and meditating on it with prayer,

put it to the side to study later or ask a mentor or teacher. Not everything can be understood when we desire it; therefore, jot it down and revisit it in the future.



18. Prayer: Our relationship with God is to have two-way communication: **Expressive:** Talk to God as a real person; while He is God, He also is our Father. Paul's prayers are our pattern; find them throughout his epistles. Study how he prays and its effectual work in him. Prayer can humble you to be open to grow and be the very tool God will use to answer your own prayer. **Receptive:** God personally speaks to you as you stay in the Word, meditate, and purpose to listen. God uses the Spirit to help you grow, stirring this doctrine in you to resolve questions and/or provide direction.

19. Process: Look for passages that contain a list of steps. These are designed to help students understand or apply what is being taught. Examples are found in *Proverbs 2:1-5*, *Romans 1:21-23*, and *James 1:14-15*. *Romans 5:3-5* is a 'circular process,' that is, something that can occur over and over, building character and trust over a lifetime.

20. Progressive teaching: Paul builds one concept onto the next in his epistles to teach exactly what a saint needs in order to mature in an organized manner. Verses, chapters, and books build from simple to complex, or 'milk to meat' (*1 Corinthians 3:2*). For example, the goal of *Romans* is to

establish a saint (*Romans 1:11*). Each chapter has strategic topics, progressing to attain this goal. A verse builds on the one before to fill in the doctrinal details for the chapter, so a saint becomes



'established.' (*Romans 16:25*)

21. Publisher Insight: Sometimes publishers reference a passage and provide informative history, notes, or cross references in a Bible. However, recall that this is not a part of God's Word, but manmade reference materials. It is merely relaying one perspective and can contain error. Therefore, prove all things.

22. Qualifiers: It can be helpful to know that some statements in Scripture are qualified, by indicating something is true, as long as certain conditions are met. Examples can be helpful: a) *Romans 7:2*: "For a woman which hath an husband is bound by the law..." is qualified by, "...so long as her husband liveth..." b) *Romans 8:17*: "And if children..." qualifies those that are "...then heirs..."

23. Questions are used to teach: Logical, sequential questions are used in Scripture to help the reader to understand, and then progress him to the next step or issue. Paul uses this teaching method often in *Romans 1-11*. After providing a question, he will proceed to answer it in the succeeding verse or verses i.e. *Romans 3:1 & 2*. Look for them.



24. Quotations: When Scripture quotes an Old Testament verse, look back and find where it's located. A Bible publisher may include the reference for the quoted passage next to the verse or you can use a concordance to look it up. Make the time to read the passage within its context to gain clarity.



25. Read: It is God's priority for us to know the Word and think about it throughout the day. The best way to start for a new believer or someone who has never studied before is to simply read, everyday. *Romans* establishes a believer and is the most profitable book to begin reading (*Romans 1:11*).

Set aside a time and place to do your reading and decide ahead of time how to wisely deal with potential interruptions. Approach Scripture with an open mind to see what God, by the Spirit, can teach you. The first time reading a chapter, read it through a few times. As desired, go back to define unfamiliar words. Read each chapter slowly and prayerfully. You may need to reread a passage many times to understand. In time, reading will naturally cause curiosity to search and seek out more clarity, transitioning to studying. A student may be reading the Word and suddenly find he is on a journey, exploring many facets of a word, verse, or topic.

26. Read/Study/Meditate: ‘Reading’ provides general insight into what was written. ‘Study’ takes many forms, but examines finer detail for clarity, application, and underlying Truth. Often, ‘meditation’ joins with reading and studying in order to consider and turn ideas over in one’s mind. Together they bring faith and conviction. Prayerfully, allow



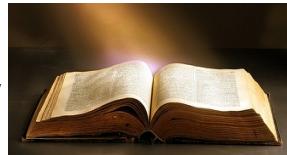
the Spirit to lead you through verses: “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*” (*Rom. 8:14*)

27. Reflection Points: God laid out reflection points (or checkpoints) in Scripture to summarize teaching and provide opportunities for students to evaluate understanding of what has been taught. A helping word or phrase like, ‘therefore’ (*Rom. 5:1-2*) or, ‘so then’ (*Rom. 8:8*), often begins a summary of what has just been taught. If there are questions, it sends a student back to restudy the section or topic. This provides valuable information to the student. When he continues without understanding, progress is affected and understanding is inhibited.

28. Resources: Bible: The King James Bible is the suggested text as it is the preserved Word of God. The use of older English is precise (See Appendix III). **Dictionary:** A dictionary is an effective tool to gain clarity in words to understand passages. **Concordance:** This resource helps a student to locate verses when you only have one or two words from a verse. This book also helps you find

references or do word or topical studies. **Commentary:** This is a resource that provides one teacher's way to view Scripture. Some find it helpful when studying difficult passages. However, read and study verses yourself before reviewing man's opinion. This enables you to approach the passage fresh and untainted to learn what the Spirit can teach, keeping Scripture as your authority before being influenced by another person's ideas.

29. Respecting the Word: Keep God's Word as your primary source. This refers to exalting Scripture in your mind, above all other sources, wisdom, and viewpoints. God's opinion on this topic: "...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Ps.138:2) Also, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7) As you read the Scripture, purpose to think about 'how' you are interpreting what is being said. Are you questioning it or even disagreeing with what it teaches? "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." (Proverbs 4:13) Or, are you approaching it with a heart of faith? For example: "How is God showing love to me in this verse?" "Help me to understand this Truth." The Bible describes how God views the Word and how to approach unto it. Read to gain insight and conviction i.e. *Is. 55:11, Prov. 2:1-5, Rom. 10:17 or Heb. 4:12.*



30. Sections: Each chapter in the Bible can be broken up into topical sections, building on the prior section, progressing the reader in understanding. It is written in a precise way and strategically lays one component of doctrine onto the next.

(*Isaiah 28:10*) Practice reading a chapter and notice subject changes; these are called subtopics. Sometimes a question (*Romans 11:1,7,11*) or helping word, which is used at the beginning of a verse, flags us to a new subtopic. Examine this in *I Corinthians 12*: Verse 1: 'now,' Verse 7: 'but,' Verse 12: 'for,' Verse 18: 'but now,' and Verse 27: 'now.'



31. Standing/State: Some terms or passages address our standing (position) in Christ, others, our state (walk). *I Corinthians 1* is an example: Verses 4–9, identifies position and Verses 10–11, identifies state. Some terms can refer to both, depending upon how they are used i.e. sanctification, adoption.

32. Series/Lists: At times, things are taught in a series or list. For example: a) *Romans 1:15-18*: This section provides four reasons why Paul is ready to preach the gospel; each start with the word 'for.' b) *I Corinthians 12*: In Verses 4-6, the Trinity is used to divide the spiritual gifts. Then, Verses 7-11 list the Spirit's duties, Verses 12-26 list Christ's function, and Verses 27-28 list God the

Father's specific responsibilities. c) *II Corinthians 6:4-10*: This is a list describing Paul himself and his group as approved ministers of God.

33. Study: Make your time with the Lord interactive: read, study, compare-contrast, examine words, ask questions, etc. to be renewed and to bring heart conviction.



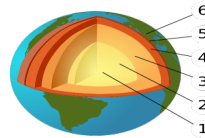
Use resources, meditate on what was learned, and give yourself time to turn over ideas in your mind. God will bring the understanding.

34. Sub-focus: Sometimes a chapter will address certain aspects of a subject. For example, the issue of tongues in *I Corinthians 14*: Some verses define or describe tongues (*Verses 2,4,14,22*), while others provide the how to in using them (*Verses 19,26,28*). When reading, look for the sub-focuses; after a while, it will come naturally.

35. Theme/key verse: Read through a book/chapter to get the general sense to its content. A main topic and key verse can be found and assigned for each book/chapter. These are usually found at the beginning. As one matures and gains insight, the theme or key verse may change. Each person will have their own unique approach to this assignment; the doing of it helps a student to learn.

36. Transitional verse: This verse is often found near the end and summarizes the current book/chapter, while preparing the reader for what's

coming next. For example: a) *Acts 28:28* “Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles...” sets up the next book, *Romans 1:5*: “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations...” b) *Romans 1:32* sets up *Chapter 2*, which is about God’s judgment.



37. Underlying teachings: Notice that there is much more to be learned in Scripture than what is concretely read on the surface of a page. It can be similar to looking at the exterior of the earth; there are many unseen layers beneath. Thus, look for underlying layers of critical teachings that are taught in the Word as you progress in your reading and understanding. A few underlying learnings from *Romans 1-16*: a) God and man’s character. b) How to access God’s power to live. c) Trusting God and His Word. Scripture teaches the novice, but also the teacher, providing insights into how to approach it or instruct, i.e. *Is. 28:10, Acts 17:11, Rom. 10:17, II Tim. 2:15*, etc.

38. Words: Every word is important, so meditate upon terms as they seem important to the verse or are repeatedly used. Make it a priority to define words and ask yourself: “Why did God use that word?” “How can this term help me understand?” “Where was this used before?” (*Phil. 4:8*) Look for word definitions within Scripture i.e. **Faith:** *Romans 4* and *Hebrews 11:1*, **Tempted:** *James 1:14*, etc.

Note: New and exciting study tools can be discovered regularly. As they are acquired, add them to this list to expand your personal resource over time. Look for these tools within the pages of God's Word. They are hidden nuggets waiting to be found.

Personal Notes

VI. Appendix I: Study Method Options

1. Book survey: Read through a book, then go back through each chapter to find the main topics, key verses, words/phrases used, and generally answer “who what, when, where, why, and how questions.” Consider researching the setting and background of when and where it was written. Continue rereading the book using this process.

2. Character analysis: You can study Bible characters by using a concordance. Examine verses to gather information: family, associations, key events, journeys, relationship and attitude toward God, etc. Also, ask yourself questions: “What can be learned from this person and his decisions?” “What can God teach me through this character?”

3. Daily devotional: In this method, a person can use a man-made book or choose to select one verse a day to meditate upon. While thinking on a verse, he can evaluate the context, think about words in the passage, and consider how it can be personally applied. Also, it could be valuable to memorize the verse, write it out, and/or put it on the bathroom mirror to prompt further thought about how it is practical to you. However, solely using a man-made devotional to replace reading and studying Scripture is NOT recommended, but commonly done today. Instead, use it as an additional way to think on Scripture through your day.

4. Expository method: This approach looks at the details. Examine the chapters to notice the specifics: characters, words, punctuation, context, etc. A student can use a dictionary, and may reflect on what was found, prayerfully. Some may desire to consult a commentary or a Bible teacher for additional insight. Do this after your own personal study so you can come fresh to the passage, allowing God the Spirit to teach and lead you.



5. Group study technique: Two or more people can gather i.e. in person, on a phone, or in a Face-



book group to study an agreed upon topic or book of the Bible. Each participant can study the assigned Scripture and bring their results to the next meeting for discussion. Many of the study methods in this resource work well within a group setting.

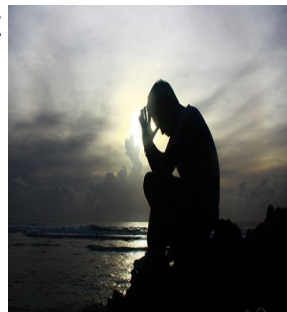
6. Historical survey: Look at an event or character, considering it in terms of the earliest phase provided in the Bible and follow its chronological course. Examples: The kings of Israel, Christ's earthly ministry, or Paul's apostolic journeys. A student can make a historical timeline of events for an

overall picture. For example, list the order of the events of the Little Flock after the cross into Acts, through to the stoning of Stephen.

7. Interactive study: This study focuses on obtaining participation from group members. Each participant takes a different aspect of the passage or uses a different approach to present at the next meeting. For example, one person would focus on key words, another on sectioning the chapter, still another may research prior Scripture on the same topic. In this way, the Spirit can uniquely work through each person and have an impact on all the rest, while encouraging personal study.

8. Man-made book review: This is a popular method used, often replacing direct study of the Word. A group progresses through a man-made book to evaluate views/conclusions of the author. It's one of the least preferred methods, as it does not use the Scriptures as 'the direct source' to study. If used, be sure to look up passages discussed for yourself in your Bible, so context can be seen. Reflect on conclusions given, proving it through Scripture. Be mindful that no matter how highly respected the author is, it's **not at all** the same as studying God's Word.

9. Meditation method: Read a passage and then reflect upon



the many facets of the verses: Words and phrases used, context, theme or goal, how it applies to you personally, etc. This approach can be easily used in conjunction with most any study method.

10. Multi-faceted approach: Choose in advance a chapter or section of Scripture along with seven different methods from this list to study a chapter or book for the week. Then, each day explore your selected Scripture using one method. The next day, move on to the second method selected. At the end of each study period, reflect upon what was learned. Keep notes on key issues as it can help in the recall of the new material learned.

11. Outline: A student can read through a chapter or book and then assign a topic for each section. Highlights of each topic can also be documented.

12. Question approach: Read through a chapter and write down several questions. Spend your study time to reflect on each question to search out the answer.



13. Read and reread technique: Read to gain an overview of a book, then, reread it slowly to examine its finer detail. In the second reading, assess words that are unfamiliar, difficult, or repeating terms, outline the chapter, assign key topics, break the chapter into sections, etc. This may be the most effective tool.

14. Read to summarize: Read one section or chapter at a time, then write a summary of it in your own words. Proceed through the book at your own pace to gain an overview of what is being taught.

15. Read through the Bible: In this method, the student is not studying the specifics about what is read. Rather, the goal is to read, becoming familiar with what was written down. This allows the Spirit to compile a storehouse of Scripture within, and to make connections with what is already known. Avoid the tendency to do multiple rabbit trail mini-studies; this will take you off track.



16. Topical method: Select a particular subject of interest, like faith, and use this to study what the Bible teaches on the topic. Brainstorm related words and find places the Bible deals with the subject, consulting a concordance. Be thorough, yet systematic. Refine the topic to be studied by focusing on one aspect of 'faith,' such as one's sanctified walk. You can also narrow the focus to study it only in one book of Paul's epistles, or in the Old or New Testament. Remember that words have more than one meaning. Don't forget to consider the context. Ask yourself, "Are the verses being studied in Paul's epistles to the Body of Christ, or is it in a book written to Israel?" (*Rightly Divide the Word: II Timothy 2:15*)

17. Verse-by-verse study approach: This method is basically systematically progressing through a section or book, examining one verse at a time. Then, continuing with the next verse and chapter until the section/book is complete. Many of the study tools can be applied when using this study method.



18. Video series: There are numerous options on YouTube to access good Bible teachers who rightly divide the word of Truth. Avoid replacing the study of the Word with watching sermons. Purpose to look up verses to prove and compare Scripture; notice the context. (*Acts 17:11*)

19. Word study: This approach is similar to a topical study, but here you search how the Bible uses a specific term. Focus on a particular word, finding other passages with similar use (definition) of the



word. It should be noted that there may be more than one Greek word used for one of our English words. Thus, words have multiple meanings; keep this in mind as you study. A concordance will be helpful. Remember to rightly divide, observing context (*II Tim. 2:15*) Take notes on what was learned to reflect upon.

20. Write verses or read it aloud: There are many ways to learn i.e. Auditory, visual, kinesthetically (movement), and tactile (writing). For example, writing out a whole book can be enlightening, especially for a tactile learner. While writing, think about the verse. Ask yourself questions. Think about how it can be applicable to you personally.



Recommendation: In the process of studying with others, avoid getting into debates or arguing. A debate is an interaction where one is viewed as right, the other wrong, which creates strife. Reasoning together refers to uncovering Truth, reinforcing a grace attitude with unity. Each of us are on a unique journey to develop the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16) and to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29) as we are daily renewed by the Word (II Corinthians 4:16). As a result, we will see things differently at times. Allow individuality and unique perspectives. The Holy Spirit is to lead each one of us to become fully persuaded by the Word itself. Grace is the answer.

***Note:** While this Appendix provides options for students, it is not a comprehensive list. Therefore, feel free to add to this resource as you come across new approaches.

Personal Notes

Appendix II: Scripture Preservation

Reflection Assignment: Consider the King James Bible. God preserved every word of Scripture as it is His Truth. It was given to man as perfect, complete instruction to be used throughout time. A few questions may help you to think this out logically. Consider studying this for yourself:

1. Is the God and Creator 'able' to maintain the integrity of the Scripture and preserve it? (*Rom. 4:21*) Would God take the time to use the Holy Spirit to speak through holy men to personally write His Word, then not preserve it for man? (*II Peter 1:21*)
2. *Psalm 12:6-7* states, "...O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." So, is there one Bible that is perfect, and always true? If not, did God lie about preserving it? (*Romans 3:4*) Could it contain some words that are untruth, with unclear passages? Or, is it the perfect, living Word of God, given to us to read and take in the Truth? (*John 1:1&14, II Tim. 2:15, II Timothy 3:16*)
3. Who is it, historically, that adds, subtracts, questions, changes, twists, and denies God's Word? (*Genesis 3*) Scripture teaches many things about him: He is more subtle than any beast of the field (*Genesis 3:1*), has devices to deceive (*II Corinthians 2:11*), is an angel of light (*II Corinthians 11:14*), and battles believers spiritually (*Ephesians 6:10-18*).
4. To prove this perfect Word of God, ask: "Which version clearly glorifies God the most?" Compare the King James Bible with any and all of the others to see this for yourself.

Note: If you are going to trust the Scripture to teach you and be the focus of your life, you would be wise to be sure it is always right and true. Determine for yourself: Is your Bible the perfect and living Word of God?

Personal Notes

Appendix III: The King James Compared to Other Versions



This brief list is just a sampling of the changes and omissions found in these versions. The goal set before each believer is to consider the Truth. Think for yourself and determine which version of the Bible glorifies the Lord the most. As comparisons are made, especially notice those versions that omit or change key words/verses affecting doctrines about the blood, continuity of Scripture, the power of God and the deity of Christ.

Using a comparison study Bible makes this study easier. Note: only the King James Version (KJV), Amplified (AMP), New American Standard (NAS), and New International Version (NIV) were used in this analysis, but the student is encouraged to branch out to evaluate any and all Bible versions.

- *Luke 2:43*: Changes “...*Joseph and his mother...*” to ‘father and mother’ (Joseph is not the father of Jesus, God is.)
- *John 1:27*: Omits “...*is preferred before me...*” (NAS/NIV)
- *John 6:47*: Changes “...*believeth on me...*” to ‘believes in me’ (Amp) or it is omitted it altogether (NAS/NIV)
- *Acts 8:37*: Verse omitted: “...*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...*” (NIV)

- *Romans 5:15,16*: Omits “...free...” gift (NIV)
- *I Corinthians 5:7*: The phrase that He is sacrificed “...for us...” omitted (Amp/NAS/NIV)
- *I Corinthians 15:47*: Omits: the second man “... is the Lord...” from heaven. (NAS/NIV)
- *I Corinthians 16:22*: Omits “...Jesus Christ...” (Amp/NSA/NIV)
- *Colossians 1:14*: Verse in italics or omitted “... through His blood...” (Amp/NAS/NIV)
- *Hebrews 1:3*: The phrase that Christ had “...by himself purged our sins...” omitted in (Amp/NAS/NIV)
- *II John 5:7-15*: Changed significantly (Amp/NAS) or omits (NIV) this clear verse entirely on the Trinity
- *Revelation 1:11*: Omits “...I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...” (NAS/NIV)

Personal Notes

Appendix IV: Developing a Ministry

At some point in life, a saint may simply desire to have a personal ministry. Or, he may realize he is alone and without a local Church or place to fellowship. This can be a very challenging time, yet we have the Godhead residing in us and have options!



Prayerfully, see it as an opportunity to totally depend on God. Do you really have the conviction and confidence to trust Him? *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (II Corinthians 12:9)* You

can decide to walk by faith, looking above and focusing on the inner strength of Christ in you.



God will help you to walk by faith to develop opportunities and fellowship through personal ministries. Wherever you live, or whatever your circumstances, there are ways to minister to others. Scan over this list and begin to think out of the box to discover a ministry you would enjoy. Build

onto this resource as you discover additional ideas.

1. **Witness:** Whomever you meet, use it as an opportunity: cashiers, mailman, handyman, or nurse at a doctors office, etc. See if they want to talk/meet to study or do an activity.
2. **Bible Study:** Determine to initiate a study. If you are not a teacher, watch Bible lessons on YouTube. Then, discuss what was taught, proving the verses used. Simply set a date and time, then advertise it!
3. **Newspaper ad:** Choose a local paper to place a short ad to indicate: Your new Bible study, a Christian get-together, or for a one time ministry, like cleaning up the grounds of the local police or library to meet others.
4. **Posting:** Look for places to post notices i.e. the local library/grocery store. Make a flyer to announce a new fellowship time around an activity, Bible study, or Bible reading time. Consider a Date night to meet other couples. Include the time, day, and place to meet. Provide refreshments.
5. **Salvation Tract/announcement flyer:** Put a one-page salvation tract together, along with information about a new Bible study or fellowship group meeting, providing the time, days, and meeting location. Place them in local businesses, post in grocery stores, give them out to those you meet, etc. Also, put an ad in the local paper.
6. **Canvas Neighborhood:** Go door-to-door or place a flyer on the outside of your neighbor's mailboxes. Introduce yourself and offer an opportunity to get-together, a Bible study, or activity like a neighborhood cookout. Build on this with future contacts.

Personal Notes

Resource Contact Information

A. Bible Resources

The resources below were instrumental in the spiritual growth and maturation of this writer. They each direct students into the Word itself, rather than man's wisdom, assisting individuals in the understanding of Paul's distinctive ministry to us, the Gentiles.

These are the most reliable, Bible centered Christian organizations personally known for over 25 years to this writer and are recommended to anyone interested in seeking sound teaching and resources.

1. Berean Bible Ministries, John Verstegen's ministry:
www.helpersyourjoy.com
2. Enjoy the Bible Ministries, Keith Blade's ministry:
www.enjoythebible.com
3. Grace School of the Bible, Richard Jordan's ministry:
www.graceimpact.org

B. Author Contact Information:

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Note: It seems prudent to acknowledge that no one organization or individual has the corner on the Truth. This writer would not state total agreement with any one group or individual, nor would any of these resources necessarily agree with everything written in this document. We are all called to think independently and develop our own convictions. The Word is always to be the absolute authority.

