

Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.



When a saint begins to read Paul's epistles, he will quickly notice he is **"...the called of Jesus Christ."** (Rom. 1:6) This is a group of people who were saved from their sins, called by the good news of the cross through faith alone: *"...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (II Thess. 2:13-14)

In addition, we have been **called to function** in very specific ways. Here are a few to study for yourself:

-Called to become believers of the Most High: *"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints..."* (Rom. 1:7)

-Called unto fellowship with Christ the Word in the Body of Christ: *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord."* (I Cor. 1:9)

-As the called, Christ is to be our wisdom and power: *"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."* (I Cor. 1:24)

-We are called to live/apply our faith in any situation we find ourselves: *"But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk..."* (I Cor. 7:17)

-Called into a new way: *grace doctrine, thinking, and living to yield unto God, allowing Him to work in us: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."* (Galatians 1:6)

-Called unto liberty to set our flesh aside and, in grace, to serve in love; our choices matter: *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."* (Gal. 5:13)

-God beseeches us to walk worthy to live our calling: *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."* (Eph. 4:1)

-Called to let peace reign...in our thinking, attitude, & life: *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."* (Col. 3:15)

-Called to live holy unto God: *"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."* (I Thessalonians 4:7)

-Finally, we have a "high calling" in Christ Jesus: As we believe/yield, God's Word empowers us to endure, while the sufferings work for our glory: *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:14)

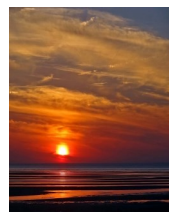
Reading to Live

There are many ways to approach the Bible: to learn the content, find an answer, do a topical study, or, as is the purpose of this article, to understand how to live godly. The goal is to walk according to who we are in Christ and what God teaches us in the Word.

To live godly in this present time, we are to read, dwell on, and live what Christ teaches in Paul's epistles. Here are a few ideas:

1. Read slowly enough to consider key words, content, & instructions (these tell us what to do and how to do it). We will use *Galatians 5:15* to help us with application: *"But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."* Be sure the **content** and **terminology** are understood: This verse shows the result of being in the flesh, under legalism (putting each other under the law); saints are biting and devouring one another, ending in functional death in that area of their spiritual life. His **instruction** as to **what** to do: *"...by love serve one another."* (vs 13)

Paul always includes **how** to do an instruction. In *verses 13 & 15*, they are warned to *"...use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh..."* and to take heed not to bite and devour one another. *Verse 16* provides clarity in **how**: *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*



2. Reflect on your personal walk. Ask yourself questions to think out what you've read and studied: "How does this apply to me?" "Do I live this instruction?"

3. If you realize a weak area, allow the Spirit to lead and mature you. Put the problem to prayer, but realize sometimes it needs to be put aside for awhile to think and learn. In time, you gain insight as to a solution. Make changes as soon as you are aware of what is needed, giving God all the glory for the learning process and growth.



Study Method: Make a Plan to Read through the Bible (Part 2)



A plan to read the Bible: In this method, the student is not studying details, but the goal is to become familiar with the content of what was written. This allows the Spirit to compile a storehouse of Scripture in the inner man, enabling the reader to make connections with what is already known. A few options:

1. Read the Bible through in a year: This enables the student to read the Scriptures in the way God organized His Word. Many choose this option and begin in Genesis and read to the end, Revelation. Finding an online designated reading plan can be quite helpful.

2. Read the Bible in two sections: Paul's epistles (written to the Body), and all the others: This method focuses on the doctrine written to us in one reading time, and then what is specifically written to Israel in another. Individualize your reading, i.e. As an early

riser, read thru Paul's epistles in the morning as they seem to be heavier doctrine, requiring more focus. At night, when you're tired, read the Old Testament/Gospels/Acts/Heb-Revelation. They are easier, more concrete, historical stories, i.e. Creation or Jesus' life.

3. A focused approach: If reading the whole Bible seems like too much of a task, narrow your focus. Read just one book, like Romans, or part of a book, like Philippians 4, for a period of time. Reread it for as long as you desire, then select your next adventure.

4. Familiarize yourself with Paul's epistles: Read three chapters per day and the entirety can be read in a month. This develops awareness of the content while gaining an overview of Paul's instructions to the Body of Christ. It will also help the student to increase awareness of the order of the epistles, the topic of the books, and how they are designed to progressively build sound doctrine in the believer.

Time Is Short By Deborah Garner

*"But this I say, **the time is short**: it remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away." 1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

Paul is pointing out what's really important and how to position ourselves as this age comes to a close. What happens when this age closes? *"... the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up (raptured) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16b-17)

It's time to be like watchmen on the wall. Let's imagine knowing Jesus plans to return for us next week. How would this news affect us? Here is my interpretation of 1 Corinthians 7:29-31: Verse 29 is **not** telling us to get rid of our spouse or house. But rather our relationship focus and 'to do' lists need re-prioritization. Talk about an evangelism explosion! Verse 30 covers emotions. Would we grieve a crashed car/computer, bad health report, or a loved one's death, knowing we would be in heaven next week? Would we be rejoicing over a promotion or favorite team's recent win? I doubt we would even watch the game. As for our possessions; nothing goes with us! Verse 31 reminds us that our titles, resources, and deadlines become irrelevant. Poof! Everything changes!





God's way is grace, loving us unconditionally and allowing us to learn and grow at our own pace and in our own way. This is a great example for members of the Body of Christ and it is precisely how God desires for us to deal with one another in the local assembly.

What does this look like in a saint's life? First, know that God is in charge. Receive a weak brother in kindness. It's allowing him to live, fully persuaded by the Word, even if his understanding is lacking: *"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."* (Rom. 14:4) God is his only judge. Until he realizes he is following contrary doctrine, he is to live according to what he knows to be Truth in the Word.

Second, instead of examining errors in someone else's life, trust that God's grace is sufficient, even for one who is a babe in an area or viewpoint. God is his master. As he stays in the Truth and godly friends help point him in the right direction, godly edification happens. Sometimes it takes a while. We are to be patient and manifest God's love/grace to him.

The question really is, do we deal with others in grace, allowing them free will to grow, just as our Father gives us this liberty? A saint's tendency is to mentally know the doctrine of grace (unmerited favor), yet not deal with others in this grace, putting them under 'our' law. However, here is what the Word says about this: *"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."* (Rom. 11:6)

We are all on our own individual learning journey to progress in the form of sound doctrine. Some things we know, other things we are unaware of, and still others we think we know, but have some misplaced pieces. God realizes it takes time to mature in grace. So then, what will we do, offer others grace or put them under 'our' law as a quality control inspector?



Question 1: My husband is saved, but isn't interested in spiritual things. How can I be a supportive, submissive wife, yet also faithful to God and His Word?

This is not an easy life situation and, at times, may feel as if you are walking on egg shells. However, do all things unto the Lord and talk to God regularly of your desire to have a patient, loving attitude toward your spouse in this area. Be consistent to function as who you are in Christ, while submitting unto his authority. Read the Word regularly, and attend a local Church or Bible study. Be sure he knows you'd like him to join you, but avoid badgering, as this pressure can put him under the law. Realize that he is where he is and it is between him and God; it is NOT your job to change him, but God's, through His Word. Acknowledge his God-given position as the head and periodically ask him spiritual questions to help both of you think through a passage to make godly decisions. Stay in the Word.

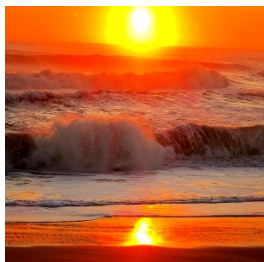
Question 2: I am a young Christian; what does God want?

Determine to make a commitment to read the Word daily, not in fear or guilt, but in love and gratitude toward God, knowing He desires what is best for you. Seek fellowship in a Church so that you can be encouraged/grow in the Word. Evaluate your relationships to determine if they are consistent with who you are in Christ and are spiritually healthy. Find a godly mentor.

Question 3: I am a home school Mom with small children and little free time. How can I find time for God in my life?

Though your life is busy, some of these ideas may be helpful:

- Keep strong boundaries to assure you find time in the day for prayer and being directly in the Word. Get up early, before everyone else, or use the kid's nap time to secure quiet time with the Lord. This sets God at the center so you mind spiritual things through your day, which will help when problems arise.
- Write out a relevant verse for review during the week. Tape it to a key location above the kitchen sink or in the bathroom.



- Arrange for someone to watch the kids at least monthly so you can attend a women's study, volunteer to help in a ministry, or have personal time to get away, reflect, grow, and take care of you.

- Strategically find weekly opportunities for quality time with a friend to encourage one another or for a short Bible study. It can be a phone call, a walk, or meeting in the park while the kids play.

- Make time to listen to the Bible on audio, such as when you're in the car; a Bible app on your phone can be very helpful.

- End the day with reading or discussing a favorite verse with your spouse, but also with your children, before they go to bed. Engaging others reinforces the Truth within, but also gives you a chance to think about the application of the verses.

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Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

Let, Be, and Yield (Conclusion) by Jeanette Scallan

“...that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4b)

These commands are not action oriented, but faith oriented. We trust that God’s Word is true, become who He says we are in Christ, and yield to His effectual working in us... *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)* Our sanctification is as much a matter of faith as was our salvation. Just as we came to understand our complete inability to save ourselves before we could trust the gospel, we must now learn our absolute powerlessness to change our own behavior (to live unto God). Apart from the life and power of Christ in us, we are completely without strength.



Of the three terms (let, be, and yield) it is interesting that the Apostle Paul uses the word ‘be’ the most often, and ‘yield’ the least. As we learn more of who we are in Christ, and allow the Word of God to transform our thinking, the mind of Christ begins to influence our behavior (without consciously yielding). Consider the proverb of Solomon, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Prov. 23:7a)*, and also the words of Christ to Israel, *“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)* Thoughts produce actions.

Bringing forth fruit unto God does not begin with our strength, actions, or words. It begins with our thoughts agreeing with the Word of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. It begins with us truly believing that our identity has forever been changed.

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