



Just A Minute *with Scripture*

God Gets Personal

A wondrous adventure awaits as you choose to read and study, especially Paul’s epistles written to us, the Body of Christ. God the Father personally communicates, teaches, and encourages you to be strong spiritually. The Spirit perfectly knows what’s needed, doing unseen work in your spirit, soul, heart, and mind. As Scripture is taken in, it works mightily. Approach 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.” (I Thess. 2:13)

It takes time to become comfortable with the way Scripture is written, so push through all challenges to walk it out, living by faith. In great love, the Lord Jesus suffered and arose to give you new life and this unique opportunity to read His Word. **In gratitude, open the Bible daily to listen.** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Why read it? “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Tim. 3:16-17) Dwell on Scripture, explore its depth.

As you read and trust Scripture as your authority, God promises great treasure: “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.” (Prov. 3:13-15) God’s wisdom will reap bountifully!

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Trust God With Your Life

God created us in His image and loves us so much that He desires a personal relationship with each of us. In great love, God the Son died for us: “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (II Cor. 5:21) He arose victorious! Now Believe... **He is trustworthy!**

Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians



Verses this Month: *Galatians 6:12-13*

¹²*“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. ¹³For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.”*

1. There was a group of Jews that desired to “make a fair shew in the flesh.” Explain this and how it happens today.
2. Notice the context of the passage. When Jews “constrained” the Galatians

“to be circumcised,” how did it benefit these Jewish troublemakers?

3. When someone taught about the cross and what it accomplished spiritually, it could cause “persecution for the cross of Christ.” Explain what this means.
4. In verse 13, it says the Jews, or the Circumcision, did not “keep the law.” Why was this said? Didn’t they follow the Law of Moses? Explain using verses.
5. Some circumcised Jews were influencing the Galatians and wanted to “glory” in their “flesh.” Practically explain how the Jews received glory?

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

Getting Started

It is God’s priority for us to know the Word and think about it through the day. Paul relays to Timothy: *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them: that thy profiting may appear to all.” (1 Tim. 4:13, 15)* So, how will you do this?

‘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. The best way to start for a new believer or someone who has never studied is to simply read it everyday. *Romans* establishes a believer (*Romans 1:11*) and is the most profitable book to begin your new reading habit. Yield to God, purposing to 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.” (Romans 8:14)* Walk by faith.

Set aside a time and place to do reading, deciding ahead, how to wisely deal with potential interruptions, then keep hard boundaries. Prayerfully read each chapter, slowly, realizing you may need to reread passages several times to understand, remembering it is God’s own wisdom. Next, go back to define unfamiliar words. In time, reading will naturally cause curiosity to search and seek for more clarity. As you spend time in the Word, God transitions a student from reading into studying. For example, you may be reading and suddenly you are on a journey exploring many facets of a word or verse.

Suggestions: Make your time with the Lord interactive: read, pray, study, compare/contrast, examine words, ask questions, using resources such as a dictionary or concordance. Personalize what God is teaching and meditate on what was learned. God the Spirit will bring the understanding. Be diligent to read God’s Word every day!

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: How can I have a ministry when I’m a busy Mom?

A ministry is doing work or a vocation on behalf of Christ, such as an ambassador or missionary.

-Keep in mind that your family is your primary ministry. Make new ministries a part of your daily routine. Rather than focusing on your lack of time, think afresh.

-Share the gospel as you do your errands. Hand out or place tracts strategically. Develop spiritual connections along your journey, i.e. cashiers, bank tellers, etc. Allow 15 minutes to stand outside of a store and hold a hand-made sign with the gospel.

-Wear a tee shirt with a Bible verse on it.

-If you go to garage sales, offer a tract and talk to buyers/sellers.

-Give out tracts at doctor appts.

Use this article as a springboard to think out of the box. Brainstorm with family and friends to come up with additional ideas.



Five Important Study Tools



God's Word is His actual thoughts on topics written to man, which is thinking, wisdom, and power far above ours. Therefore, read each epistle slowly, many times through, to think on what is being taught. There is a toolbox of helps that can make it easier to read, giving clarity to what it contains. Let us review just five Bible tools to help you gain confidence in personal study:

- 1. Application:** Read a verse or section and think about the verses. Determine if you understand what is being taught, then look at the passage from a practical application point of view. Does it relate to you? How can you apply it? Make the needed changes in your life, yielding to what God's Word is instructing you to do.
- 2. Ask yourself questions:** As you read through a passage or chapter, make time to think, meditate, and pray about what it is teaching and regularly ask yourself questions to think out what is read: "How does this help me understand?" "Why is that being taught here?" The process of asking questions makes Scripture come alive.
- 3. Context:** Use the 'Who, what, when, where, why, and how approach' in analyzing a verse, i.e. To whom is it referring and what is the topic? Notice the setting, events, and who is being addressed in a passage. Pay attention to terms or key phrases surrounding a study passage as each provide clues to help gain clarity. Look at the first chapter of a book to find 'to whom' it was written. Always note the context before applying a verse. Some passages are written directly 'to Israel,' while others are 'to the Body of Christ.' We are to rightly divide the Word. (*II Timothy 2:15*)
- 4. Definitions:** Each word is highly important and used for a particular reason by God. Find a good dictionary to clarify word meanings, noting that some terms can have multiple meanings. This process greatly enhances understanding. [i.e. *Romans 3:4* says, "...That thou mightest be **justified** in thy sayings..." This case is not referring to being justified unto eternal life (saved), but God is proven 'just' in His sayings.]
- 5. Underlying teachings:** There's much more to be learned in Scripture than what is concretely read on the surface. Scripture contains countless levels of Truth to be considered and studied over a lifetime. It's similar to looking at the outer crust of the earth, knowing there are many unseen layers beneath. Look for underlying critical teachings that are visible as you progress and grow in understanding. A few underlying learnings in *Romans 1-16*: a) God and man's character. b) How God's power is manifest in us. c) How to gain confidence in God. Begin your search for these teachings with meditation.

*Search for more tools in our PDF book, "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools:"
<https://christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com/s/Booklet-ExploringStudy-Tools-PDF.pdf>

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 2: I can't keep my house clean and my husband is frustrated. Do you have any helpful suggestions? Where do I start?

To begin, refresh your mind on what Scripture says about your role as a faithful saint and wife. Read *Romans 13:1-8* and *Ephesians 5:21-33*. The goal is: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him...And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." (*Col. 3:17,23*)

When your flesh rebels and says you can't or don't feel like doing the cleaning, recall the "Y" in the road. Don't give in to fleshly feelings, getting pulled back into old sin habits. Shut the window of those thoughts and think on the verses above. Focus, keeping strong boundaries with yourself!

-Begin slowly to change habits and predetermine to use short time blocks to keep things in order.

-Bathroom: Keep a bin with all needed cleaning materials under the sink. Each morning after you wash up, take five minutes to clean, focusing on trouble spots.

-Kitchen: Set up a kitchen cleaning bin also. Before going to bed or first thing in the morning, take five minutes to straighten up by placing dirty dishes in the dishwasher and wiping the counters.

-Livingroom: Scan through the area picking up and straightening before going to bed.

-Delegate tasks in a similar fashion to family members. Assign them a new habit: five minute clean-up duty for a particular room or area at the beginning/end of the day.

-Plan 15-30 min. weekly to do a thorough cleaning in each room.

DECISIONS...DECISIONS...

Which Bible Version?



Many are unsure and confused about which Bible to use. The goal set before each saint is to consider two important questions for yourself: Which version of the Bible should you use and which Bible glorifies the Lord the most? As comparisons are made, notice versions that omit or change key words or verses affecting doctrines about the blood, continuity of Scripture, the power of God, and Christ's deity. To help, the brief list below has been provided as a sampling of the changes and omissions found in versions.

*A few suggestions: Look up the verses for yourself. Note: A comparison study Bible makes this examination process easier. Also, 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. Prove all things. Now, enjoy the process and learn.

- **Luke 2:43: Changes/Omitted** "...Joseph and his mother..." to 'parents' or left out. (NIV/AMP/NAS) (Joseph is not Jesus' father, 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: Omits** the phrase that He is sacrificed "...for us..." (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: Omits** the phrase that Christ had "...by himself purged our sins..." in (AMP/NAS/NIV)
- **I John 5:7-15: Changed significantly** (AMP/NAS) or omits (NIV) this verse entirely on the Trinity.
- **Revelation 1:11: Omits** "...I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last..." (NAS/NIV)



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Writers/Editors/Coaches: Brian/Deborah Johnson

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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

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Call or Email Us For Times and Locations:
(804) 519-1210 lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com

