

Part 2 – Go Deeper Series: “Equipping You for Glory”**Hebrews 4:12****Sermon Summary**

The goal of this sermon will be to foster a desire for the reading and application of the Word of God within peoples lives. We will examine two basic stages with regard to “*Reading the Bible.*” These questions will challenge lead us to the 90 Day Challenge.

Two Stages of Reading the Bible**Stage #1 – The Preparation Stage**

- **Matthew 5:6** – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- **Right Motivation – Hunger....Thirst...Transform**
- **Application Point – Examine Yourself and Pray**
- **Key Point:** We examine the first part of stage #1 by discussing the right motivation for reading the Word of God. There is a wrong way and a right way. God promises us that His Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:10) therefore it is crucial that we go into the Word with an open mind and a willing heart to let God bring about the transformation that we need.

Question #1 – Why Should I Read the Bible?

- **Hebrews 4:12** – For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- **2 Timothy 3:14-17** – But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **Right Expectation – Transformation...Restoration...Application**
- **Application Point – 90 Day Challenge...Journaling.** Take the 90 Day challenge with the right attitude. Pray for God to transform you through the challenge and make a journal of how God is transforming you.
- **Key Point** – The first key question that we encounter in stage #1 is the most basic of questions that every human being faces at some point: Why read the Word of God? The answer is given to us by God himself. He tells us that the Word of God will transform our lives if we allow it to shape us, mold us, and move our desires closer to God and farther away from the desires of this world.

Question #2 – What are the Obstacles that lay before me?

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** – No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.
- **Right Desire – Admit...Commit...Submit**
- **Application Point – Journal...Claim the Promise.** Pray Psalm 51:10 or Proverbs 16:3 and commit the areas of distraction to the Lord.

- **Key Point** – The second question under stage #1 deals with the obstacles that stand in our way of reading, hungering, and thirsting for the Word of God. This question forces us to remove those obstacles on a daily basis as we venture into the Word of God.

Stage #2 – The *SMAC* Stage

Question #1 – How Do I Study the Bible?

- **John 16:13-15** - ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.
- **S – What does the passage Say?**
- This question asks us to determine facts about the passage such as: who is the author, who is he speaking to, the date and setting, historical background, key words and phrases, repeated words and phrases, and the overall general theme(s).
- **M – What does the passage Mean?**
- This question asks us to determine the basic meaning of the passage by: examining cross-references, determining how key words and phrases are used in other passages, and then identifying the basic principles or lessons gleaned.
- **A – How can I Apply the passage to my daily life?**
- This question addresses the most overlooked part of studying the Word of God which is personal application. Here you design an action plan to apply what you have learned by setting a goal(s) and writing out a prayer(s) to ask for God to help you apply what you have learned.
- **C – What is the Context of the passage?**
- This question asks us to determine how this passage relates to the overall theme of the Bible by asking how this theme relates to the overall theme of the chapter, book, New Testament or Old Testament, and the entire Bible. This helps us determine what the author originally intended for the original audience to learn.
- **Application Point – Apply SMAC** – Spend 15 minutes a day for one week applying the SMAC principle to your reading.
- **Key Point** – This key point addresses the main question under stage #2 which is simple: How do I study the Bible? Here we are introduced to the SMAC principle which helps a person dive deeper into the Word which brings about more transformation in their lives.

Memory Verse:

Romans 10:17 – Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Challenge

Take the 90 Day Challenge and apply the SMAC principle to one passage of Scripture per reading.



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