

# *Daily Bible Reading*

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This Saturday we will begin our second 30 day challenge to read through a portion of the Bible. We will be looking at the Books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon. Many of the readings will take shorter amounts of time than we did last time. Daily Bible Reading is very important. The hope through this is to see that taking a little time each day, we can read through the Bible a couple times a year. It is deeply important that we develop habits in ourselves, in children, and everyone to daily read the Bible!

There is a need to daily read the Bible because we understand that it is the power of God to save. (James 1:21 ) God's words produces saving faith. (Romans 10:17) We know that without faith it is impossible to please God and we cannot be saved. The Word of God was given to produce such faith. (Hebrews 11:6, John 8:24, 20:30-31) God's Word causes us to be born again. (1 Peter 1:22-23). Jesus stressed the necessity of being born again, that is when we accept the incorruptible seed of God's Word. (John 3:3-5, James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23-25)

There is also a need to daily read the Bible because it shows us God's power to comfort. It shows us the hope we can have. Paul uses this in Romans 15:4 speaking of the Old Testament showing that God always keeps His promises. The Word of God comforts us through the idea of happiness. We can be happy that the Word of God is consistent and nourishes us (made possible through daily Bible reading). God's Word comforts us through the peace it shows. (Psalm 119:165). With inner peace, one does not stumble. (Psalm 119:92-93).

We need to develop daily bible reading because we are creatures of habit and time. As creatures of habit, we either can habitually do things that are good for our souls or bad. If we have not developed the good habit of daily Bible reading, then we have certainly developed a bad habit of not reading the Bible. By not partaking in the good, we often time replace it with the bad. As creatures of time, we are subject to the limitations time has on us. James talks about in James 4:14 that our times on earth is brief. We must utilize it properly! As creatures of both time and habit, if we do not develop the good habit of daily Bible reading, then we will have spent our time on this earth without utilizing the benefits of the Word of God. Many will have to face God never spending time in His Word.

We need to create a positive addiction to the Word of God. Normally, when we hear the word addiction we immediately think of actions that are bad for us, our bodies, and in general. We normally think of something that one becomes dependent upon in a bad way. Positive addiction is becoming dependent upon a good habit. For some, exercise has become a positive addiction. Some make it a frequent experience and have pleasure from it. If they spend too much time away from exercising, then their mood dampens. A positive addiction is something that is good for us mentally, physically, and spiritually. It gives us pleasure and satisfaction. We have to see daily Bible reading from this perspective. If we make it seem like a chore, it becomes unpleasant. If we fall behind in goals and it is not a positive addiction, then there is little that motivates us to resume.

The principles to creating a positive addiction are the same for anything. We must make it a pleasurable experience. If we do too much too soon, then it can be more like just marking off a checklist. Here are some suggestions shared by numerous brethren to assist you in some way. Start slow with small goals. The Bible readings in these challenges are designed to take 15-20 minutes a day. Sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less. Split up the readings if needed. Try one half in the morning and one half in the evening. Long term setting, look at reading through the New Testament each year. It requires you to read about one chapter a day. After that, try the Old Testament in a year. Then try both in a year. It is okay to start small to get the habit formed.

Begin each session with prayer. The Psalmist said in Psalm 119:18, *“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your Law.”* This will help put you in the right frame of mind. Read slowly and carefully. One of the best ways to retain what you read is to read it out loud. By you audibly speaking the Word of God, it becomes a part of you. Make use of some Bible aids if needed. Utilize a Bible dictionary or set of maps. Don't pass over words you don't understand, places you don't recognize, etc. Utilize tools to search them out so that you can see what is going on in the passage.

Discuss what you read with others. Encourage someone else to join along on the plan. We will try to have our lessons and articles from our readings next month to enhance our study together. Share discoveries or passages that stand out to you. A major point is to read with the intention to follow the will of God. The Word of God instructs us, teaches us, encourages us, and reveals to us the nature of God & His will. If we do not read with the intent to learn and apply, then we are simply wasting our time. (James 1:22-24) True joy in the Word of God comes in applying His Word to our lives. (James 1:25) Finally, end each session with prayer. Look at the Psalmist in Psalm 119:5-6 and 119:10-11. It is certainly important to start and end each time with prayer. Every moment we can spend in the Word of God is a treasure.

*Psalm 119:105 — Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. —CW*