

HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD FEBRUARY 1, 2017

MATTHEW 28:19 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

INTRODUCTION: A disciple is a disciplined student, or one who studies the life and teachings of His master in order to emulate his life. Since Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh, the way we study His life and teachings is by studying the Bible. **LUKE 6:46-49** Jesus said if we call Him Lord, we should do what He says or follow His teachings. A wise man doesn't just skim the surface, he digs deep and builds his life on the solid rock of God's Word. The reason, he knows life's storms come to everyone. The way to weather the storm is by following God's instructions. Our God is smarter and wiser than the most intelligent human mind. **PSALMS 119:1-11** - Gives another reason why. **PSALMS 1:1-3** Gives another. **2 TIMOTHY 2:15** – How?

1. Find a good Bible translation that you can understand.
 - A. New Living Translation, New King James Version, New American Standard. Gather the necessary tools.
2. Find a quiet place to be alone with God.
 - A. **MARK 1:35** – Jesus removed Himself from other distractions.
3. Follow a simple plan of action for how to study.
 - A. The **SOAP** Acrostic is one plan people find helpful.
 - **S = SCRIPTURE:** Write one scripture that the Spirit brings to mind-love, attitude, etc.
 - **O = OBSERVATION:** What did it mean to them, what is it saying to me?
 - **A = APPLICATION:** How does this apply to my life?
 - **P = PRAYER:** Ask for help in order to make the application.
4. Begin with prayer.
 - A. **MATTHEW 7:7-8** – “Father, you know me better than I know myself. Guide me by your Spirit as I study your Word today.”
5. Read, write and review.
 - A. Read the scripture.
 - B. Write down what you learn.
 - C. Review or make an assessment to determine if changes need to be made.

ATTITUDE

1. Scripture. **EPHESIANS 4:23 (THE LIVING BIBLE)**
2. Observation. If their thoughts and attitudes should constantly be changing for the better, what about mine?
3. Application. From **EPHESIANS 4:17-6:9** – Paul explains what putting on Christ looks like and how they should adjust their attitudes and thoughts in order to represent Christ properly.
4. Prayer. “Father help me to see what adjustments I need to make in my attitudes and thoughts so I can represent Christ properly and give me the strength to do so.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Attitude determines altitude: A planes attitude is it's position in relationship to the Horizon. It could be good or bad.
- Bad attitudes have destroyed marriages, careers, churches, children, relationships and can hinder our walk with God.
- Do I have a bad attitude about my marriage, work, church, children, school, or life in general? Am I constantly murmuring and complaining? Am I a pessimist?
- We can't change life, but we can change our attitude.

If we want distressed – Look within.

If we want defeated – Look back.

If we want distracted – Look around.

If we want dismayed – Look ahead.

If we want deliverance – Look up.