

How To Study the Bible

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How to Study the Bible

Lesson 1

Introduction

I am a Christian, but I have not grown much in the faith.
How can I become a stronger Christian and have a close walk with the Lord?
I know I need to study the Bible, but I don't know where to start or how to go about it.
I want to do God's will, but I am confused about what God wants me to do.
Life is so busy, it is hard to find time to study the Bible.

These are just a few of the comments that come from believers who do not practice studying God's word. It is God's desire that we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. God gave us His word so that we can draw nigh to Him. It is through His word that we can know and obey His will. How can these things be accomplished in our lives?

Should we just think about what we would like to do and then open God's word and search to find a verse that would support what we think is right? or that will help us through a trial? or give us strength for the day?

Or should we open the Bible randomly, read what first meets our eyes, and see how this fits God's will for us? or see if we can learn something that will be a help and encouragement to us today?

Should we wait until we need to make a decision and then begin reading a certain book of the Bible until the answer appears before our eyes?

Or should we wait until we are facing a hard trial and seek God's word to help us through that trial?

Maybe we should just pray, then open the Bible, close our eyes and point to a verse, and expect that verse to be our guide for the day, or the answer God has for a special need.

None of the above. You cannot grow and become strong in the Lord if you are not reading your Bible every day. You cannot find God's will if you are not making daily Bible reading and prayer a habit. You must be a person who reads and studies the Bible every day. In Colossians 3:16a, God says, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom....*

God's word must **dwell** in you. It must inhabit you. It must have permanent residence in your heart and life.

It not only must dwell in you, but it must dwell in you **richly**. It must dwell in you plenteously, in abundance.

And it must dwell in you richly **in all wisdom**. You must rightly exercise the knowledge that you gain. That is, you must be able to discern what is most just, proper, and useful; and then you must use it correctly. You must obey.

If you are not in the habit of reading your Bible daily and letting the words of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, then that is where you must begin in your journey of studying

God's word. Build a daily habit of reading so that your life can be full of God's word. Then you will begin to grow and your faith will increase. You will find treasures far greater than gold. And you will begin to be able to discern God's will, because His word will be right there in residence in your heart.

The first step then is to read the Bible every day. After you get into the habit of daily reading, then you can begin studying the Bible.

Reading the Bible

Part 1

WHY should I read my Bible?

1. Deuteronomy 17:18-20, ¹⁸ *And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:*

¹⁹ *And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*

²⁰ *That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.*

God commanded the kings of Israel to write a copy of His word in a book. They were to keep that book by them so that they could read His word every day of their lives. We do not need to write a copy of the Bible because new copies are available to buy whenever we need them. However, writing down what we learn will be of great benefit in retaining the wonderful truths that we read about so that we can have the wisdom we need to make right decisions.

The king was to read God's word daily so that

he would learn to fear the LORD

he would obey the words of God's book

his heart would not be lifted up above others

he would not turn aside from God's commandments

he would prolong his days

This is good advice for all of God's children, not just for kings. God wants us, too, to fear Him. 2 Corinthians 7:1, *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **fear of God.***

1 Peter 2:17, *Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God.** Honour the king.*

Psalm 25:12, *What man is he that **feareth the LORD?** him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.* God will teach His will to the man who fears Him.

God wants us to obey His word. 1 Peter 1:2, *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto **obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.* If we do not read His word, how will we know what to obey?

God wants us to think of others above ourselves. Philippians 2:3, *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem other better than themselves.***

Even Christ became a servant. Are we better than our Master? Mark 10:42-45, ⁴²*But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.*

⁴³*But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall **be your minister:***

⁴⁴*And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall **be servant** of all.*

⁴⁵*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

In Deuteronomy 5:32,33, God had given the same commandment to all His people that he gave to the kings in chapter 17. ³²*Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall **not turn aside** to the right hand or to the left.*

³³*Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may **prolong your days** in the land which ye shall possess.*

God gave us wise words from the mouth of King Solomon in Proverbs 4:25-27, ²⁵*Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.*

²⁶*Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.*

²⁷***Turn not** to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

2. Revelation 1:3, *Blessed is he that **readeth**, and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.* God promised a blessing to all who would read, hear (that is pay attention to), and keep (that is observe) the words of this prophetic book.

And in Psalm chapter one, God promised to bless those who delight in His law and meditate in it day and night. How can we delight in God's law if we don't know what it says? And how can we meditate in it if we do not read it? Psalm 1:1,2, ¹*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

²*But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate** day and night.*

3. 2 Timothy 3:16, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

ALL of God's word comes to us by inspiration of God.

ALL of God's word is profitable. Through His word we will receive instruction.

His word will reprove us, convict us, show us our faults.

His word will correct us – it will show us how to make things right, straighten us up again, bring us back from error and deviation to a just standard of truth.

And it will further instruct us in righteous living. It will educate us to understand things of which before we were ignorant. It will disciple us and nurture us.

As verse 17 reads, *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* If we do not read the scriptures, therefore,

we will be ignorant

we will not know the right road to take

we will deviate from the truth and follow error

we will not be perfect, or mature, complete

we will not be fully equipped for doing good works – we will not have the resources and supplies that we need

4. Going back to our introductory verse, Colossians 3:16a, we must read and read and read the word of God in order for His word to abundantly fill our lives with wisdom so that we can know and understand His will in everything.

These are just a few reasons why we should make Bible reading a daily habit. In lesson 2, we will look at HOW should I read my Bible.

How to Study the Bible

Lesson 2

Reading the Bible

Part 2

In lesson 1, we looked at four reasons why we should read the Bible. In summary, we should read the Bible because

God commanded it.

God promises His blessing.

God's word is profitable.

God's word will fill our lives with wisdom and understanding.

WHERE in the Bible shall I read? Where shall I start?

1. The first book of the Bible a Christian should read is the Gospel of John in the New Testament. If you are a new Christian, or if you need assurance of salvation, or if you have never read the Gospel of John, that is the place to start.

The gospel of John is full of God's promises of salvation for ALL who BELIEVE on Jesus Christ. This book will help you to KNOW

that your salvation is complete,

that you HAVE everlasting life,

that you will NEVER be condemned (be sentenced to punishment for your sins),

that you will NEVER be cast out,

that you will NEVER perish (see death in the lake of fire),

that no one can ever take you out of the hand of Jesus Christ or of God the Father.

As you read through the gospel of John, take time to write down or underline, and even memorize, those promises that God has given so that you might have assurance of salvation. Not one word of any of God's promises has ever failed.

1 Kings 8:56, ***Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.***

2 Corinthians 1:20, ***For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.***

You should memorize at least one assurance promise so that you can say, "Yes, I am 100% sure that I am saved. My salvation rests on the promises of God's, given to all those who put their faith in Jesus Christ." (The promise you memorize does not have to be from the gospel of John. There are many other precious promises of salvation throughout the Bible, and maybe you already know one.)

2. The second book for a Christian to read is 1 John.

First of all, in chapter 1, this book shows us how to be restored to fellowship with God when we sin.

Throughout the book, John points out many characteristics of a believer so that we can evaluate our own lives to see if we are truly saved. For example, 1 John 2:3-5 says, ³*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.* ⁴*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* ⁵*But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.* One characteristic of a believer is that he keeps God's commandments. If a person says that he knows God, but he does not keep God's commandments, God says that man is a liar and the truth is not in him. If a man keeps God's commandments, he can KNOW that he is in Christ, that he belongs to Christ, that he is God's child, that he is born again.

In order to keep Christ's commandments, we need to know what His commandments are. As you read the epistles, or letters, to the churches later, you will start learning many of these commandments.

You will also find more promises in the book of 1 John, by which you can be reassured of eternal salvation.

3. After reading John and 1 John, read through the book of Acts which tells about the beginning of the church of Jesus Christ, about the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of the believers, about the work of the church in taking the good news of salvation to other parts of the world, and how the disciples carried their cross and endured persecution as followers of Jesus Christ.

At the same time, you can begin reading the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the account of beginnings and the history of God's people, Israel, as God unfolded His plan of salvation throughout those years of history. God's love, mercy, and grace are seen throughout these pages of history as He prepares the way for the coming of the Saviour. These books give us a picture of what God is like. They are foundational for a proper understanding of many truths in the New Testament.

In order to comprehend well the Old Testament, it is best read chronologically, that is to start with the book of Genesis and read through to the end of Malachi. It is no accident that God had the books of the Bible laid out in the order they are in.

4. When you finish the book of Acts, and as you continue reading the Old Testament, begin to read the epistles to the churches – Romans through Revelation. In these books, you will find the commandments that Jesus Christ has given to His church, as well as many more *exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* (2 Peter 1:4) Obedience to the commandments given us in the epistles will help you to grow strong in your Christian life. In 2 Peter 3:18, we are commanded to *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

The book of Revelation shows us what will happen on this earth after Christ comes back to take you and me, God's children, Christ's bride, to heaven. It also shows us what heaven will be like.

5. After that, you can start reading the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke which tell of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now that you have become a believer,

you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, a follower of your Lord and Savior. As you read the gospels, you will see how Jesus lived so that you can follow His example of love, mercy, compassion, and obedience to His Father. You can also read the gospel of John again along with these other three gospels. The stories in the gospels are a fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament to send a Deliverer or Savior from sin.

How shall I read the Bible?

1. Don't hurry; read slowly. If a chapter is short, read the whole thing. If it is long, read just part of it. Many Bibles are marked for paragraphs or are already divided into sections with headings. You may read part of a chapter in the morning and another part in the evening.
2. Think of the Bible as a love letter from a very special Friend. This letter was written just for you by that Friend. There is no friend in this world like Jesus. You are very dear to His heart. He loves you so much that He lay down His life for you, and He sent you this love letter so that you can get to know how sweet He is and to love Him with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. He sent you this love letter because you cannot see Him and talk with Him face to face right now. But some day, you will be with Him and will have all eternity to talk with Him personally as friend with Friend.
3. Go to a quiet place where you can be alone with God and read and meditate on what He is saying to you.
4. If you have young children or a friend or family member who cannot read, take some time to read to them too. It will not only help them, but it will help you to remember better what you have read. However, don't put this in place of quiet time alone with God. Never forsake that habit.
5. To build a steady Bible reading habit, it is best to read at the same time each day

How often shall I read the Bible? You must decide. If you have not been in the habit, or if you have a hard time reading, start with about fifteen minutes. As you become more familiar with God's Word and become closer to the Lord through reading the Word, you will want to spend more time with God.

How to Study the Bible Lesson 3

Studying the Bible

In lessons 1 and 2, we discussed why and how we should READ the Bible. Getting into a Bible reading habit is very important and will create a hunger in our hearts to know God better and know His word better. That hunger will give us a desire to STUDY the Bible. In 2 Peter 3:18, God's word commands us to *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.* In order to grow in grace, or become a strong Christian, we must grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. God has given us His word so that we can get to know Him better. Studying God's word, therefore, is as necessary for us to grow spiritually as eating and digesting our food are necessary for us to grow physically.

Let's look, first of all, at some other reasons for studying the Bible. Then we will talk about how to study to Bible.

- I. Why must I study the Bible?
 - A. 2 Peter 3:18, as seen above
 - B. 2 Timothy 2:15, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
 1. The word "study" here means to "use speed, make effort, be prompt or earnest, give diligence, endeavor, labor"
 2. Studying takes work, putting forth effort to learn, grow, and get to know Christ better
 3. If you want to be a person approved unto God
 - a. You must study
 - b. You must be a workman, a laborer
 - c. You must learn to rightly divide the word of truth
 4. If you study
 - a. You will show that you are approved unto God
 - b. You will never need to be ashamed
 - c. You will learn to rightly divide the word
 - C. John 14:15, *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*
 1. These words were spoken by Jesus to His disciples
 2. By keeping Christ's commandments, we show our love to Him
 3. In order to keep Christ's commandments, we must know what His commandments are
 4. The best way to know what His commandments are is to read and study the Bible
 5. We have already seen a couple of God's commandments in this lesson
 - a. Grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior

- b. Study God's word
- 6. If you study God's word daily
 - a. You are obeying one of God's commandments
 - b. Therefore, studying the word is one way to show that you love God, or His Son Jesus
- D. We must study the Bible in order to answer those who ask us about our faith
 - 1. Proverbs 15:28, *The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.*
 - a. Those who are righteous must study
 - b. If we do not study, what kind of answers might come out of our mouths?
 - 2. Proverbs 22:20,21, ²⁰*Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, ²¹That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?*
 - a. God has given us excellent things in counsels and knowledge
 - b. These are WRITTEN in His book so that we can know how to answer others with words of truth
 - 3. 1 Peter 3:15, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
 - a. First of all, we must sanctify the Lord God in our hearts
 - *We must regard that He is holy
 - *We must have a proper confidence in and respect for one so great and holy
 - b. Then we must be READY to give an answer
 - c. We must ALWAYS be ready
 - d. We must always be ready to give an answer to EVERY man
 - e. We must know why we believe what we believe so that we can tell them why we have hope
 - f. And we must always answer in a spirit of meekness and fear
 - *Meekness: humility, gentleness
 - *Fear: we know that we are not to fear man; we must have a fear of God with a serious and reverent spirit

II. How should I study the Bible?

- A. Choose a time and place to study
- B. Before you read, pray
 - 1. You might use Psalm 119:18 as your prayer, *Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*
 - 2. Or you may pray your own words, beseeching God's guidance in your study
 - 3. Ask God to help you know how to apply the results of your study to your own life

- C. Use a small notebook or journal to right down what you learn as you study
 - 1. Study just a small portion at a time
 - a. Sometimes you may just want to dwell on one verse
 - b. Other times you should study several verses together to get the context
 - c. Or you may study a whole paragraph or chapter, especially if it is a narrative
 - 2. Ask yourself questions such as
 - a. Is there an example here for me to follow?
 - b. Is there a commandment I should follow?
 - c. Is there a sin I should avoid?
 - d. Is there a sin I need to confess?
 - e. Is there a promise I can claim?
 - f. Does this verse or passage teach me something about what God is like?
 - g. Does it teach me something about righteous living?
 - h. Does it reveal God's will for a certain situation?
 - i. Is there a prayer I can pray for myself or for others?
 - j. Is there a verse I should memorize?
 - k. Is there a verse that will help me in sharing the gospel?
 - 3. Write down the answers to these questions
 - 4. Meditate on them
 - 5. Share them with someone else
 - a. This will be a blessing to others
 - b. It will increase your blessing
 - c. It will help you to better remember what you have learned
 - 6. Begin to obey any new commandments or principles God has shown you
- D. Use a concordance
 - 1. This will give you further understanding of the meanings of words in the passage you are studying
 - 2. You may also find cross-references that will shed more light on your study passage
- E. Use a dictionary to find and write down meanings of the main words in the passage
- F. Reread your notes later in the day or the next day, and continue to meditate on what you learned
- G. If you use other resources, do so very cautiously and sparingly
 - 1. Books, magazines, commentaries, on-line sources, etc. are written by men, not God
 - 2. They are not inspired
 - 3. Men often add their own ideas and interpretations
 - 4. Whatever extra-Biblical sources you may read, be sure to carefully compare with Scripture
 - 5. Remember, God is always right

6. Someone has wisely said that the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself
7. How much better it is to learn to rightly divide the word and find other Scriptures that will shed light on something that is not clear to you
8. Always interpret a verse or verses in the light of the context within the passage you are studying
9. Never pull them out of context; this can lead to wrong interpretations and false doctrine
10. As you study, ask God for wisdom, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* James 1:5

Remember: Not reading and studying the Bible will make you poor. You will be like the person who received a letter from a special friend. Inside the letter was a check which would have met all his needs. But the poor man was so discouraged and feeling so sorry for himself that he did not open the letter and read it. He did not know that there was a check in it. Therefore he remained very poor. If you do not open and read and study your Bible, you will not find all the wonderful treasures that God has placed within that book, His special love letter to you. You will be spiritually poor.

Proverbs 2:1-12, *¹My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

²So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

³Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

⁴If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

⁵Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

⁷He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

⁸He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

⁹Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

¹⁰When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

¹¹Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

¹²To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things.

All these verbs imply studying God's word in order to find the wonderful treasures that God has placed for us there:

- receiving
- hiding
- inclining
- applying
- crying after
- lifting up the voice
- seeking
- searching

Be sure to make these a part of your daily life.

How to Study the Bible Lesson 4

Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

As you study the Bible, and as you find treasures there to meet specific needs in your life, you will find that memorizing some of these verses will be of great benefit when trials or temptations come, when you aren't sure which is the best path to take, when you are discouraged, when you want to share the gospel or encourage someone else.... Anyone who puts his heart into it can memorize Bible verses. Some may memorize more easily and more quickly than others, but everyone who truly has the desire can memorize something.

This lesson will cover reasons and methods for hiding God's word in your heart.

- I. Why should I hide God's word in my heart?
 - A. This is one way God has given you to keep you from sin, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* Psalm 119:11
 - B. The word kept in the secret place of your heart will help you to have victory over the devil
 1. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit
 - a. It is an offensive weapon in gaining victory over the enemy
 - b. Ephesians 6:17, *And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
 2. Jesus set the example for us in Matthew 4:1-10, *¹Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*
²And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.
³And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
⁶And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
⁸Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
¹⁰Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

C. Remembering (or memorizing) God's word will help you to obey His commandments, Psalm 103:17,18, *¹⁷But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*
¹⁸To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

D. Hiding God's word in your heart will help you in teaching your children to fear the Lord and to serve Him, Deuteronomy 6:6,7, *⁶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*
⁷And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

II. How can I hide God's word in my heart?

A. Many believers do not memorize God's word because they do not want to make the effort

1. Some excuses are
 - a. It takes too much time
 - b. It's too hard
 - c. I'm too busy
 - d. I've tried, but I just can't do it
 - e. I never was good at memorizing
2. Maybe you have another excuse
3. But there is no good excuse for neglecting what God says is important

B. Some do not memorize God's word because they've already made up their minds that they can't memorize

1. If God says it is important, can you not trust Him to help you?
2. Is there anything too hard for the Lord?
3. Have you prayed about it?
4. Have you purposed in your heart that you will make diligent effort to memorize?

C. If you find memorizing difficult

1. Start with a short verse
2. Keep working on it until you know it well

D. If you are good at memorizing

1. You may memorize a longer verse or even a passage
2. You also should work on it until you know it well

E. What is a good way to memorize?

1. One method may work for some people and other methods for others
2. Find the method that works best for you
3. Set aside a certain amount of time each day to concentrate on memorizing
4. You may also snatch a few moments at other times during the day
5. Some people learn best through the eye gate
 - a. Write out your verse on an index card

- b. First read the verse at least ten times, thinking about its meaning
- c. Then try repeating the verse, looking back at it only when you aren't sure of what comes next
- d. Double check to make sure you have repeated it correctly
- e. If not, read the whole verse again at least once
- f. Then try repeating it again
- g. Do this daily until you are able to say the verse correctly and smoothly
- h. If you can't get it perfect, just do the very best you can
- 6. Some people find it easier to memorize with a partner
 - a. You can read the verses together
 - b. Then one person can read and the other try to follow without looking
 - c. Or one can read, leaving out words here and there for the other person to fill in
 - d. Then you can switch roles
 - e. You can listen to each other and check each other's recitation
 - f. You can help the other person when he gets stuck, and he can help you
 - g. You can encourage one another
 - h. This will also give you someone to be accountable to
- 7. Some people learn best through the ear gate
 - a. Record the verse on any electronic tool
 - b. Listen to the verse at least ten times, thinking about its meaning
 - c. Listen to it again and try saying the words along with the recording
 - d. Later you can try saying it yourself and checking it with the recording
- 8. Once you have memorized it as well as possible
 - a. Review it daily for a week
 - b. Then thrice a week
 - c. Then once a week
 - d. Then set up a schedule for reviewing from time to time
- 9. You can start memorizing another verse, as soon as you have memorized the previous one well
- 10. Memorize and review together with your family, a sibling, a friend, or someone else
- 11. Think of a way to reward yourself
- F. Maybe you know of or can think of some other ideas to help yourself or someone else with memorizing
- G. Whatever you do, don't neglect this very important part of studying God's word

If you have not made Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memory a daily habit, I trust you will begin to do so now, and that you will have a joyous and exciting journey through the pages of the sacred book.

If you desire to be a prosperous and successful Christian (and that should be the desire of each believer's heart), consider the words of the Lord spoken to Joshua in Joshua 1:8, *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

And in Psalm 1:1-3, the Lord said, *¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*