



## GETTING INTO THE WORD

When it comes to studying God's Word, the first word that is pertinent is our heart attitude. Coming into a time with Him and spending time in the Word must be done with the right motive and the right heart attitude as well as a desire to learn and hear whatever God wants to speak to us in our lives. When we go looking for His Word in regards to whatever is pertinent for the moment in our lives, this will have a much greater impact in our lives.

I can relate to this: there was a time in my earlier years with the Lord, I looked at getting into the Word as a chore....it was one of those things that were on my "Christian must do list." Well, needless to say, I sure wasn't getting anything out of it. It was a chore and it was something that the Lord would classify as legalistic. It wasn't until I really fully got it down into my spirit that my Jesus wanted a personal relationship with me and understood to some degree how He was patiently pursuing me that my heart was turned in a proper perspective toward Him.

If you will look throughout Scripture from Genesis on, you will see how God is pursuing and going after people....He wants that friendship with us. That was His purpose for creating man to begin with. He wants to speak to you personally. He wants you to get to know Him. If you just stop for a moment: think about what you do to develop a friendship with someone. Make a list here of what you do to maintain or develop a relationship with a friend in your life.

What do you need to do to maintain that relationship?

Hopefully, one of the items in your list of maintaining a relationship is "to spend time", as well as "to communicate with each other." It is no different with our Heavenly Father. If you look in the Scriptures, there are two examples where it speaks of God referring to some as His friends. As you look up the following two Scripture references, write down whom it is that He refers to as His friends.

1. Isa. 41:8: \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 15:13-15: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? In each case, they had a relationship with God.

Therefore, approaching the Word of God should with the right heart attitude...sincerely desire to know all we can about Him. As that friendship grows, it becomes more intimate and we will more and more desire to know what pleases Him, and hopefully we will want to obey Him. That is when life really comes to spending time in His Word.

James 4:8 speaks to us of drawing near to God....and He will draw near to you. It doesn't say God will draw near to us first.....it is US that must be going after Him.....we are the ones who determine our own "spiritual thermometers". He has promised that if we do this, He will then draw near to us. Once again....it is the heart attitude. He never forces Himself on us.

As our relationship grows, He will reveal the deeper/secret things to show you. In Matthew 13:10-13, He had this to say to His disciples (those in closest relationship to Him):

[Matthew 13:10-13](#)

Then the disciples came to Him and said, Why do You speak to them in parables?

**11**And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets *and* mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

**12**For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given *and* he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

**13**This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp *and* understand.

SO.....after checking my heart attitude (which should always be #1), how do I start?

If you are at a point where serious studying and really digging into the Word with all the tools that are available haven't been a part of your time in the Word, I don't suggest that you start at that point. You will only become frustrated and discouraged. Start with something fairly simple. No matter where you begin, make a practice of taking notes as you read and study. These can prove beneficial if the Lord ever brings you back to an area or topic. It is also a starting point so when you feel you are ready to "dig a little deeper", you have some basic information to "spring forward" from that point.

One simple starting point where you might begin is what is called "The 3 Step Study." This is also good for anyone at anytime...especially if you are kind of "stuck" on what to stud or you are at a point in your life when the Word may seem "dry." Let's go through a verse from John 6:1,2 as an example:

“After this, Jesus went to the farther side of the Sea of Galilee – that is, the Sea of Tiberias. And a great crowd was following Him because they had seen the signs (miracles) which He (continually) performed upon those who were sick.”

1. **Write down the facts:**  
A great crowd followed Jesus.  
He drew a great crowd because of miracles and signs He did.
2. **What is the principle that we can apply to these facts?**  
The crowds were drawn because of what He did...particularly those who were sick.
3. **Take that principle you write down and put it in the form of a question:**  
“Do I follow Jesus for what He can do for me or for Whom He is? If I am following Him for what He can do for me, am I bringing Him down to my level instead of looking up at Him to His level?”

Many times our questions can be used to expose things within us that we in turn need to spend some time talking to the Lord about.

A resource I would suggest you begin to learn how to use is a Strongs Concordance. The best one out right now is the one which also contains the Vines (which is helpful to you in learning how to look up the meanings of words). This is a basic source which can be helpful when doing topical or word studies in particular.

In building a relationship with Jesus, spend time looking at Scriptures that will help you to get to know Him, His characteristics, what He did, how He reacts. As you do this, ask the Lord to help you to see Him as He would like to personally reveal Himself to you. Ask Him to capture your heart as you study. In learning more about Him, go through the Gospels and make lists of things you see about Him.

No matter what type of study you choose to do, always look at the Scriptures from God’s perspective....not your own.

**What to study?** As I mentioned earlier, there are word studies, topical studies, studying a complete book. When studying a book of the Bible, I encourage you to incorporate word studies as you go. You may spend time on only a few verses at any one time, but that is okay. When I was doing a study of 1 Peter and on one chapter, I spent a week on just a few verses as the Lord was speaking to me regarding those verses, giving insights and leading me to other relating verses in the Bible.

Because we serve a God Who is a personal God and wants that personal relationship with you, He is interested in you and what you are interested in. As you go through the day, be listening to things He may want to point out in the natural. As you look through the Word, He taught many times using parables and He still does the same today. What He points out in the natural to you, go to His Word and apply the spiritual principles to that particular situation or item you are working with. He wants to be involved in EVERY part of your life. Be in tune. When the Word speaks of “pray without ceasing”, it means “communicate without ceasing.” That is what prayer is: communication between us and the Father.

If you are going through a tough time in some area of your life, use that to see what the Lord has to say about it. That is where the concordance is handy. There is an area in the back that lists many topics and you can go there and begin to apply Scripture to what you are experiencing. The Lord many times will use this to speak to you very personally....to bring answers....to help gain freedom and victory. The Word becomes LIFE and we can become excited about His Word.

Word studies are very important when it comes to God's Word. The Hebrew and Greek words may have various meanings to a word where our English word will have only one. Don't assume or go by just what the English means. This is what makes God's Word so exciting.

**Example:** the word commandment or commandments.

In our thinking, when we hear that word, we think of someone ordering us to do something. I think that is why so many people will react in a negative way when it comes to God's Word and often fail to willingly apply what the Lord asks of us. However, in the Old Testament, more times this Hebrew word is **mitzvah** which means "law." God has His laws for us to follow for our good. It is the same as the laws we have in our country. We follow these (hopefully) without a lot of complaining and rebelling. When looking at this further: when we read "Thou shalt do" or "thou shalt not do": **the meaning here is a prescription.** If a doctor gives us a prescription when we are ill it is to help us get better. Well, God's prescriptions are there for our spiritual health and to prevent us from becoming spiritually ill.

To really begin getting more into the Word, have someone who knows how to do some of these studies mentor you. Have a study partner or someone you can be accountable to...someone who can encourage you and work with you through areas of study you may find difficult as well as pray with you regarding areas the Lord may be speaking to you.

In closing, let me encourage you from God's Word: Proverbs 2:1-5 (Amplified)

"My son (daughter), if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to skillful and godly Wisdom and inclining and directing your heart and mind to understanding (applying all your powers to the quest for it; Yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek (Wisdom) as for silver and search for skillful and godly Wisdom as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of our omniscient God."