

Listen to what is wise and try to understand it. Yes, beg for knowledge; plead for insight. Look for it as hard as you would for silver or some hidden treasure. If you do, you will know what it means to fear the Lord and you will succeed in learning about God (Proverbs 2:2-5).

Rain for crops
Water for animals or
ourselves.

Life-giving water

Jesus used water, which we need for physical life, as an illustration of our need to have Christ in our lives.

Whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life (John 4:14).

Why Bible study is necessary for the Christian

If you love someone, you want to be with them. You want to know everything about them. You want to understand their thoughts and share their feelings. **You want to please them.** As your love for that person grows through close contact, **you become more complete, more satisfied and more productive.**

Our relationship to God depends upon our obedience to His commands. The only way we can obey Him is to know what His commands are.

2 Timothy 2:15

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.

Matthew 4:4

Matthew 4:4

Man cannot live by bread alone,
but needs every word that God
speaks

The Bible tells us to give full attention to our work so that we can understand the Word of God and be able to teach it to others

As we use our minds to search for the meaning of God's Word, we are fulfilling part of God's great command: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37).

In order to do God's will, we must study His Word. In this way we learn of His commandments and come to love Him more.

"If I pay attention to all your commands, then I will not be put to shame" - Psalm 119:6

Psalm 119

The word law in this Psalm means the advice and commands given in Scripture. David repeats over and over the idea that learning and obeying go together.

Obedience produces understanding and wisdom to know the meaning of God's Word. Then we can apply it to our lives, and teach it to others.

1 Peter 2:2

"Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved."

Colossians 3:16

"Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts."

Just as food has to get inside our bodies to give us strength, God's Word has to get inside our spirits to cause us to grow spiritually. Only when we feed our spirits with the rich nourishment of the Word will we grow spiritually.

Studying God's Word is easier
when we ask the Holy Spirit to help
us. He gave us the Holy Spirit to
teach us.

When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come (John 16:13).

**Bible study meets
our needs**

A **master craftsman** knows his product better than anyone else does. If a product does not work, we send it back to the craftsman to have it repaired. He makes it work again.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16.All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17.That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

As God's Word makes repairs, it fulfills many needs in our lives. It helps us know the truth about our salvation. It teaches us what our heritage in Christ is. It gives us strength and power through Christ. It discusses how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It provides joy and peace that come from God. It directs us to live holy lives.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of man's heart.

The Word of God shows us when our desires are against God's will. It helps us shape our thoughts to be like His thoughts. Our desires and thoughts are at the center of our spiritual life in the same way that joints and marrow are central to physical life.

Psalm 37:4

Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires
of thine heart.

Psalm 37:5

Commit thy way unto the LORD;
trust also in him; and he shall bring
it to pass.

Psalm 119:130 KJV

The entrance of thy words giveth
light; it giveth understanding unto
the simple.

Psalm 119:130. This light guides us
in our daily lives. It gives us
understanding about Christ's return
and our eternal life in heaven.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**Approach your Bible
study with the proper
attitude**

2 Corinthians 2:6-16

Understanding the Letter

The Apostle Paul was concerned about the disobedience of the church in Corinth and wrote them a letter (1 Corinthians) to counsel them. He explained that because of their arguing and other bad attitudes, they were not growing spiritually.

I could not talk to you as I talk to people who have the Spirit; I had to talk to you as though you belonged to this world, as children in the Christian faith. I had to feed you milk, not solid food, because you were not ready for it. And even now you are not ready for it, because you still live as the people of this world live (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Our attitude must
include discipline.

We cannot expect God to reveal things to us unless we make a real effort to learn.

"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

Now, in order for our study to change our lives, we must be teachable. We must be willing to receive our Heavenly Father's instruction.

I have not neglected your instructions,
because you yourself are my teacher. How
sweet is the taste of your instructions --
sweeter even than honey
(Psalm 119:102, 103).

The Sovereign Lord has taught me what to say, so that I can strengthen the weary. Every morning he makes me eager to hear what he is going to teach me (Isaiah 50:4).