

THE WORD

“...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” - Matthew 4:4

The Importance of God’s Word

“So, in order to help a new Christian grow, you must teach him the Word, share it with him, but also teach him how to dig in for himself...God wants him to grow and develop into a strong disciple of Jesus Christ who can, in turn, meet the needs of others and eventually teach them to repeat the process.” - Leroy Eims, *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*

1. It is necessary for personal growth.

- Read Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 5:12-14, and 1 Peter 2:2.
- God’s Word is the _____ we need to grow.

2. It is necessary for effective Christian living.

- According to 2 Timothy 3:16, Scripture is profitable in four main ways:

3. It keeps us from _____ (Psalm 119:11).

The Hand Illustration

A simple illustration of the five ways to intake God's Word is a hand. Let's look at what each finger represents.

The Pinky Finger — hearing God's Word

1. Read Romans 10:17. Faith comes from _____ the message of Jesus Christ through his _____.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Why did Paul thank God for these people?
3. Read Proverbs 4:20-22. What is the result of listening to God's Word?

The Ring Finger — reading God's Word

1. Read Revelation 1:3. Blessed is the one who _____ and the one who _____ and the one who _____.
2. Read Nehemiah 8:8. How did they read?

The Middle Finger — studying God's Word

1. Read Acts 17:11.

Why were the Bereans noble?

How often did they examine the Scriptures?

2. Read Ezra 7:10. Ezra had _____ his heart to _____ the Law of the Lord, and to _____ it and to _____ his statutes and rules in Israel.
3. Read 2 Timothy 4:13. What did Paul want brought to him?

Why is this important?

The Index Finger — memorizing/meditating on God's Word

1. Read Psalm 119:11. What keeps us from sinning?
2. Read Psalm 1:2-3. How can we be like the tree, bearing fruit by streams of water?
3. Read Joshua 1:8. How often are we to meditate? Why are we to meditate?

The Thumb — application of God's Word

This is the most important part of the hand because without it we cannot hold onto God's Word.

1. Read John 14:21. Not only do we need to have God's Word to show our love for him, we also need to _____ it.
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is he saying about obeying God?
3. Read James 1:22. Be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves.

The Results of Bible Intake

- Joshua 1:8 — prosperity and success
- Psalm 119:9-11— kept from sin, purity
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 — equipped for good works
- 2 Timothy 2:15 — not ashamed

God has given us an incredible privilege to be able to communicate with him through his Word and through prayer. Begin now to take advantage of these great resources and discover a life of intimacy with God and impact on the world.