

DAY ONE

WHY BIBLE ENGAGEMENT?

Why Bible engagement? Why not Bible reading? Or Bible listening? Or Bible study?

You might recall a scene from the 2004 animated movie *The Incredibles*. Bob, a superhero father, is reading his newspaper, obviously detached, as his three superhero children bicker, tease, and annoy one another at the dinner table. “Time to engage, Bob!” his wife says, snapping him to prompt attention. Bob engaged with superhero flair, successfully calming all five family members into a Norman Rockwell-like scene. Well, Bethel, it is “time to engage” our hearts, minds, souls, and strength!

IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

Perhaps you are asking, “Is it really worth it to read this ancient text?” Or put another way, “How could the Bible actually be relevant to my life?”

Do you desire:

- An abiding relationship with the Lord?
- Confidence and purpose in your daily life?
- Warrior-like connection with other believers (the kind where you’d go to battle, no questions)?
- Transforming depth to endure life’s trials?

If so, then Bible engagement is worth your time. Put simply, the Bible is useful for every facet of our lives.

HOW IS THE BIBLE USEFUL?

To answer this question, let’s look at 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) and break it down into pieces:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

“All Scripture” is literally the Bible, Old and New Testaments, in its entirety.

“Breathed out by God” more literally means that “all Scripture is breathed into by God.” When you speak, your word is “you-breathed”—your breath, prepared by your mind and formed into speech. You breathe out your words. In the same way, the Bible is God’s word, breathed out by Him alone through the men who wrote it, inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

“Profitable for teaching, for reproof” refers to the usefulness of the Bible in forming sound doctrine or beliefs. Teaching informs your beliefs while reproof identifies wrong beliefs. Your beliefs matter and affect your behavior.

“For correction, and for training in righteousness” refers to the usefulness of the Bible in our conduct. Correction straightens out our behavior as we receive His reproof. Training in righteousness is the good and pleasing way we behave that honors the Lord.

In short, the Bible is useful in forming our beliefs and behavior, equipping us for His works.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

To engage with the Bible, we will use the HEAR tool. HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. This method will allow us to engage with short passages of Scripture while reaping long-term benefits. The goal is to HEAR from the Lord as He leads us through our daily lives.