

Bible Intake 2: Hearing. Reading. Studying

CENTRAL IDEA: No other Spiritual Discipline rivals the importance of the intake of _____. No other Spiritual Discipline can compensate for the lack of it. Without feasting on the food of Scripture, no one will enjoy a growing, healthy Christlike life. Bible intake is not only one of the most important Spiritual Disciplines, it is also the most broad. It actually consists of several sub-disciplines. It's much like a university comprised of many colleges, each specializing in a different discipline, yet all united under the general name of the university. Three of the "colleges" of Bible intake are _____, _____, and _____. God's Word. Last week we studied memorization and meditation.

The Importance of Bible Intake

No Spiritual Discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. Nothing can substitute for it. There simply is no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk and meat of Scripture. The reasons for this are obvious.

1. In the Bible, God tells us about Himself, and especially about Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of God.

2. The Bible unfolds the Law of God to us, and shows us how we've all broken it. There we learn how Christ died as a sinless, willing Substitute for breakers of God's Law and how we must repent and believe in Him to be right with God.

3. In the Bible, we learn the _____ and _____ of the Lord. We find in Scripture how God wants us to live, and what brings the most _____ and _____ in life.

None of this eternally essential information can be found anywhere else except in the Bible. Therefore, if we would know God and be godly, we must know the Word of God—intimately.

REMEMBER: _____ without _____ is _____.

The Spiritual Disciplines are a _____ to an _____. The end is knowing Christ and _____ to his likeness

Hearing God's Word

The Spiritual Disciplines are a _____ to an _____. The end is knowing Christ and _____ to his likeness

The easiest of the Disciplines related to the intake of God's Word is simply hearing it. Disciplining ourselves to hear God's Word means primarily developing the practice of attending a Bible-believing church where the Word of God is faithfully preached. Jesus once said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28). Merely listening to God-inspired words is not the point. The purpose of all methods of Bible intake is to "_____ it," that is, to do what God says and thereby develop in _____. Hearing the Word of God is not merely passive listening; it is a Discipline to be _____.

Other passages: Romans 10:17, 1 Timothy 4:13, Acts 2:42

What other ways, besides in a local church ministry, can you hear God's Word?

Reading God's Word

Jesus often asked questions about people's understanding of the Scriptures, sometimes beginning with the words "Have you not read...?" (Matthew 19:4; Mark 12:10). He assumed that those claiming to be the people of God would have read the Word of God. When He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4), surely He intended at the very least for us to read "every word."

Here are the three most practical suggestions for consistent success in Bible reading.

1. Find the _____.
2. Find a _____,
3. Find at least _____, phrase, or verse to meditate on each time you read.

Other Passages: Rev. 1:3, 1 Timothy 4:7, 2 Timothy 3:16

Studying God's Word

Why do so many Christians neglect the study of God's Word?

R.C. Sproul said it painfully well: Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is _____. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.

Other Passages: Ezra 7:10, 2 Timothy 4:13, John 17:17

Celebration of Discipline of Study

Romans 12:2 and Philippians 4:8. The goal of the Spiritual Disciplines is _____.

- Study, more than any other discipline, replaces the old destructive habits of _____ with new life-giving habits.
- What is study?
 - o Specific kind of experience in which through careful attention to reality, the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction.
 - o Meditation is devotional, study is _____.
 - o Meditation will relish a word; study will _____ it.
 - o Meditation and Study overlap, but they constitute 2 distinct experiences.
 - o Four steps of study:
 - Repetition
 - Concentration
 - Comprehension - Concentration focuses on the knowledge of the truth.
 - Reflection – defines the significance of the subject.
 - o Study demands _____

What can you do today to improve your intake of God's Word in the areas of hearing, reading, and studying?

- Consider how the following might enhance your study of Scripture:
- Writing down _____ and _____ about what you read
- Looking up _____
- Finding key words and seeing how they're used in other Scripture portions
- Outlining chapters, one paragraph at a time
- Doing book studies, character studies, topical studies, and/or word studies