

# A Neglected Habit

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By Justin Morton

One of the most important habits we can participate in is Bible study. Sadly though, this is one of the most often neglected habits in the lives of Christians. Even though this habit is widely neglected among the so called “religious” today, we would all agree Scripture speaks about the study of the Word and the importance of it.

Consider just a few things that make Bible study important:

- 1). God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psa. 119:105).
- 2). The Word of God helps us in our battle with sin (Psa. 119:9, 11).
- 3). The more we study the Word, the more we accurately handle the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15).
- 4). Through studying the Word, we discover the truth found in scripture (Jn. 8:31-32).
- 5). Spending time in the Word helps us to know how we are to live our lives (Col. 1:9-10).

Just the other day, I posted the following question on Twitter: “What is the biggest hindrance to you when it comes to reading the Bible?” Several of the answers were: I’m just so busy, I have a hard time concentrating and I’ve read and heard it all before. I’m afraid too many Christians don’t attempt Bible study because it seems too hard. Perhaps the reason it seems too hard is because we don’t know how to study the Bible.

Let’s consider a few tips that can help us in our study of the Word. Always remember, before you do anything else, begin your Bible study by praying and asking God to give you an open heart and mind.

- 1). **Study the text over and over.** This is the easiest way to learn. The more we study something over and over, the more it penetrates into the depths of our hearts and takes shape in our lives.
- 2). **Know the context.** Read the verses before and after what you are studying. Sometimes it’s beneficial to read a chapter or two before and after the text you are studying. If we don’t know the context, we may walk away from our study with the wrong idea about the passage we studied.
- 3). **Make sure you are able to give your full concentration.** Many things can distract us and get our minds off what we are studying. Find a quiet place and time so you can give the study your full attention.
- 4). **Be sure you comprehend what you study.** It’s okay if some days you don’t cover as much as you would like. Take your time and look up key words, phrases and things you don’t understand. It will make a huge difference in how much you truly comprehend.
- 5). **Take time to make application.** This is an area many struggle with. Studying the Word is good, but applying the Word is crucial. Find ways to use what you have studied in your daily life. Remember, *“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psa. 119:105).

In a few of my Bibles I have a book mark that reads, “Every time the Bible is opened knowledge is gained!” This statement is so full of truth. It’s time the people of God start opening the Word and digging deep within. Let’s take what is often a neglected habit and make it a part of our daily lives. You just might begin to see the difference the Word of God can truly make in your life!