

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." NAS

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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. NKJV

16Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), ¹⁷So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work. AMP

Unused Spiritual Resources

During Superbowl XXXVII, FedEx ran a commercial that spoofed the movie Castaway, in which Tom Hanks played a FedEx worker whose company plane went down, stranding him on a desert island for years. Looking like the bedraggled Hanks in the movie, the FedEx employee in the commercial goes up to the door of a suburban home, package in hand.

When the lady comes to the door, he explains that he survived five years on a deserted island, and during that whole time he kept this package in order to deliver it to her. She gives a simple, "Thank you."

But he is curious about what is in the package that he has been protecting for years. He says, "If I may ask, what was in that package after all?"

She opens it and shows him the contents, saying, "Oh, nothing really. Just a satellite telephone, a global positioning device, a compass, a water purifier, and some seeds."

Like the contents in this package, the resources for growth and strength are available for every Christian who will take advantage of them.

-A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.

-God's word is like salt in the back of your car in the winter. It's a lot more useful when you take it out and apply it.

- We get more out of the Bible when we let more of it get into us.

-If all you get from the Bible each week is my preaching...you'll starve! Some don't know the virgin Mary from the King James Virgin...and if I asked who knocked down the walls of Jericho, you'd give me your alibi of how it couldn't have been you!

-It is said that when the famous missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, started his trek across Africa he had 73 books in 3 packs, weighing 180 pounds. After the party had gone 300 miles, Livingstone was obliged to throw away some of the books because of the fatigue of those carrying his baggage. As he continued on his journey his library grew less and less, until he had but one book left--**his Bible**.

Amy Carmichael was born in North Ireland. When she was 18 her father died and the family went to Belfast where Amy became involved with mission work in Belfast itself. As a child Amy Carmichael had been strongly influenced by beggars and homeless children. She had organized groups within her church to help children, particularly those who were ill from working in the mills.

Now the desire for missionary work was in her heart. She was accepted by a missionary group and in January 1892 she went to Japan to join a group doing missionary work there. She failed to meet up with this group but was taken in to a family where she learnt the local customs and the language. She fell ill and was sent to China for treatment. From there she went to Ceylon and by 1894 she was back in Japan.

However she was now ready for the work that God had planned for her. She was asked to go to India which she did. In the mountains near Bangalore Amy discovered her work was to set up a home for young girls who had been rescued from the Hindu temples where they had been forced into prostitution. This is a practice still around today! Later she built a house for boys and a community hospital. She ran these homes for fifty-five years until her death in 1951.

“Never let good books take the place of the Bible. Drink from the Well, not from the streams that flow from the Well.” –Amy Carmichael

The Bible...IT IS PROFITABLE TO:

- **Change you.**

- The story is told of a South Sea Islander who proudly displayed his Bible to a G.I. during WW II. He had received it as a present from a missionary some time before. The soldier said, “O, we've outgrown that sort of thing.” The native smiled back and said, “Well, it's a good thing we haven't, because if it weren't for this book, you would be our evening meal.”

- DL Moody said: “The scriptures were not given for our information but our transformation.”

- **Convict you.**

- Mark Twain, not exactly a die-hard Christian, wrote these words: “**Most people** are bothered by those passages of Scripture **they do not understand**, but the passages that **bother me most are those I do understand.**”

- **Correct you...how to get it right**

- **Coach you...how to keep it right**

- The late Supreme Court Justice Oliver Holmes was on a train when the conductor came through collecting tickets. Holmes couldn't find his ticket and became rather distraught. The conductor tried to console him by saying, "Mr. Holmes, don't worry. When you find your ticket, just mail it in. We trust you." Mr. Holmes responded in frustration, "My dear man, that's not my problem. *I need my ticket to tell me where I'm going.*"

Three Key Words To Help You Get the Most Out Of Your Bible:

1. Observation - What do I see? [put on your S.P.E.C.S.]

The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks through his telescope he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks at his telescope, he does not see anything but that.

Sin to confess: The further one goes from the source the more polluted the water. This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book!

Promise to claim: You can't break God's promises by leaning on them!

Example to follow: Heb. 12—those voices in the grandstands...what are they saying?

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² ^[a]fixing our eyes on Jesus, the ^[b]author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary ^[c]and lose heart.”
(NAS)

Command to obey.

A journalist asked the remarkable Christian, G.K. Chesterton, what one book he would want to have along if he were stranded on a desert island. Chesterton paused only an instant before replying, "Why, **A Practical Guide to Shipbuilding**, of course."

B.I.B.L.E.—BASIC INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING EARTH!

Stumbling block to avoid. [for me, or for others who see me!]

1. Observation - What do I see?
- 2. Interpretation - What does it mean?**

Five Keys To Interpretation:

- 1. Content** - Raw material.
- 2. Context** - What is before and after the passage or verse.
- 3. Comparison** - Compare Scripture with Scripture.
- 4. Culture** - Consider the customs and practices of that time.
- 5. Consultation** - Secondary resources, i.e. Bible commentaries, Bible Atlas. Martin Luther said, "I study my Bible like I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. —"

1. Observation - What do I see?
2. Interpretation - What does it mean?

3. Application - How does it work?

The Bible is not just for information, It is for transformation.

Process of Application:

• Read it

"Born to be battered...Underline it, circle things, write in the margins, turn down page corners, the more you use it, the more valuable it gets to be. "

Ad in South Central Bell Telephone Company Yellow Pages.

"It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the Word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were no use to pray when we have no spirit of

prayer. The truth is that in order to enjoy the Word, we ought to continue to read it, and the way to obtain a spirit of prayer is to continue praying. The less we read the Word of God, the less we desire to read it, and the less we pray, the less we desire to pray.” George Muller

1. Know - The interpretation of the text; yourself.

2. Relate - What is being read.

3. Meditate - How do I apply?

4. Practice - James 1:22 “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

Don't expect God to help you understand new truths until you obey the ones you already DO understand!