

# **The Way to Enjoy the Bible**

*- By Letting the Word of Christ Dwell in Us Richly -*

Since the Bible is the word of God, its nature is divine and spiritual. We must read it with every part of our being. There is milk for our soul in the Word. It is for nourishing our inner man through the understanding of our rational mind, and it is assimilated by our mental faculties (1 Pet. 2:2 footnote 5). The milk of the word eventually nourishes our spirit, making us spiritual (1 Pet. 2:5 footnote 3).

Therefore, in reading the Bible, after we have understood the meaning of the text by our understanding and have apprehended the truth of the text with our wisdom, we should use our spirit by prayer to receive the truths in the Scripture into the deepest part of our being, that is, our spirit. In other words, after we understand the text and receive the truth therein, we still must exercise our spirit to turn what we have understood and realized into prayer that it may be assimilated in our spirit, becoming our life supply and the basis of our spiritual experience.

## **Reading the Word of God**

We need to read the Bible sequentially from cover to cover. By reading the Bible in this way, we can better understand it ([Col. 3:16](#); [2 Tim. 3:15](#); [Psa. 119:11, 130](#)).... Brother Watchman Nee read the New Testament through fifty times in one year. That became his foundation in the Bible. Most of us may not be able to read the New Testament as frequently as he did, but we can at least read through it once a year. We all need to decide on how much to read every day, schedule the time to read, and develop a habit to read.

## **Studying the Word of God**

By reading the Bible sequentially, we obtain the breadth of the Word. By pray-reading the Bible, we are able to enjoy the Lord in His word. However, we need to study the bible to grasp the depth of the truth in His word (1 Tim. 5:17b; 2 Tim. 2:15).

Some helpful materials are:

1. A good translation of the Bible (such as the Recovery Version)
  - With outlines, footnotes, and cross references
2. The Life-study Messages open the Word
  - They explain the verses and are likened to footnotes
3. Lesson books which teach us the truth step by step in a progressive way
  - Life Lessons, Truth Lessons, Truth School Lesson Books

4. Other books of truth by topic
  - Many books by Brother Watchman Nee and Brother Witness Lee teach us the truth by topics and are very helpful
5. One of the most commonly used study aids is a concordance
  - A concordance is arranged like a dictionary; it lists all the verses in the bible that contain a certain word.

It may be more enjoyable to study with several companions. Pray with your companions and encourage one another to pursue the truth (2 Tim. 2:22). Your companions will help you persevere.

### **Overview - The Need to Practice**

Each morning, we need to pray-read two or three verses from the Bible to revive our spirit (Psa. 119:47; Jer. 15:16). Many saints like to use The Holy Word for Morning Revival. If you do this, you can pray-read through the New Testament verse by verse in about six years. You should write the verses you pray-read in the morning on a card and carry it with you. Whenever you feel depressed, think evil thoughts, or are tempted to do something not of the Lord, pull out your card and pray-read. You will overcome Satan, and he will have to retreat from you (Rev. 12:11; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:16; James 4:7). Each night, before you go to bed, read one or two chapters of the New Testament. This practice will enable you to begin your day by being revived with the word of God, to overcome the evil one throughout the day with the word of God, and to end the day with the word of God. Your whole life will be enveloped with the word of God. Your speaking will be the word of God. How wonderful your living will be.

You should set up regular times to study the truth with the help of the outlines, footnotes, cross-references, Life-study Messages, lesson books, and other recovery books.

Learn to speak the Word all the time. This practice will fill and constitute you with the word of God. Wherever you go, the Lord can flow out of you through your speaking. Your friends and relatives will be saved to become sons of God and members of the Body of Christ.

#### Questions

1. What materials are available to help us study the Word?
2. Why must we speak the word of God?
3. What must we do to be constituted with the Word?
4. What does it mean to be definite in studying the truth?