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# Personal Bible Study and



# Practical Suggestions



## Personal Bible Study

The Bible is not an end in itself, but it is a means to the end of knowing God and doing His Will. The apostle Paul said, “study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing (handling aright) the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). God has given us the Bible in order that we might know Him and that we might do His Will here on earth.

Therefore devotional Bible study is the most important kind of Bible study. Devotional Bible study means reading and studying the Word of God in order that we may hear God’s voice personally and that we may know how to do His Will and to live a better Christian life.

## Practical Suggestions

For your devotional reading and study of the Bible, here are several important and practical suggestions:

1. Begin your bible reading with prayer. (Psalms 119:18; John 16:13-15).
2. Take brief notes on what you read. Keep a small notebook for your Bible study.
3. Read slowly through one chapter, or perhaps two or three chapters, or perhaps just one paragraph at a time. After reading, ask yourself what this passage is about. Then reread it.
4. It is often very helpful in finding out the true meaning of a chapter or passage to ask yourself the following questions, and then write the answers simply in your notebook:
  - a. What is the main subject of this passage?
  - b. Who are the persons revealed in this passage: Who is speaking? About whom is he speaking? Who is acting? etc.
  - c. What is the key verse of this passage?
  - d. What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - e. Is there any sin for me to confess and forsake in this passage?
  - f. Is there any command for me to obey in this passage?
  - g. Is there any promise for me to claim?
  - h. Is there any instruction for me to follow?
  - i. Is there any prayer that I should pray?

(Not all of these questions may be answered in every passage)
5. Keep a spiritual diary.
6. Memorize passages of the Word of God. No one is ever too old to memorize the Word of God.
7. Obey the Word of God. As Paul said to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and the training in righteousness.” The Bible has been given to us that we may live a holy



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life, well-pleasing unto God. Therefore God says, “Be you doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22).