

## 161. Bible Study By Arland Steen

### Supreme Scripture

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJ): *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Many sincere Christians are spiritually ill because they do not have sound and consistent Bible study. If our physical diet is not well-balanced or if our digestive system is not functioning properly, our bodies will decline in health; similarly, if we do not take in the full value of the spiritual diet offered to us in Scripture, we will spiritually decline in health.

We see a church-wide example of this in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJ): *<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

Notice from 2 Timothy 2:15 how *diligence* plays a part.

The most important thing Christians need is constant feeding on God's Word. This will ground you in the truth and, in the way you should conduct your life.

One of the greatest lies broadcast by Satan is that there is no such thing as *absolute truth* – only illusions, opinions and myth - so say humanist philosophers and religions of the east, which are clamoring for the attention of people in the west.

Such a view is comforting to many because if there is no truth we are relieved of the responsibility of obedience. Truth to them is a matter of opinion. But the Bible is truth and gives us solid guidelines about conducting our lives. For this truth to work in our lives we need:

1. To approach God's Word each time as if we had never heard it before.

Mark 4:3-4 (NKJ): *<sup>3</sup> Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.*

Mark 4:14-15 (NKJ): *<sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

The ones by the wayside have the attitude, "Well, I've heard that before." It is important that the seed of the Word fall on prepared soil; otherwise, this Word is wasted on us.

2. To mix faith with the Word and act upon it.

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJ): *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

This enables you to grow spiritually and not just collect information. To simply collect information will not achieve God's purpose of transforming our lives.

WE MUST MIX FAITH WITH IT.

3. To have careful, diligent and consistent study of the Bible instead of substituting some mystical alternative.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJ): *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

1 Corinthians 14:20 (NKJ): *Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.*

(NIV): *Stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.*  
An example of biblical mystics is closing your eyes and putting your finger on a page and then opening your eyes and seeking guidance from whatever verse your finger is on. Or, to put some kind of fleece out to the Lord; these can be very injurious.

I have never had a vision or heard God speak audibly or seen an angel or been suspended in the air.

Proverbs 3:1-6 has been my guide for years (NKJ): *<sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; <sup>2</sup> for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup> Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Psalm 131:2 (NKJ): *Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

You cannot treat God or the Bible as a magic device. There is no substitute for careful, diligent and consistent study of God's Word.

4. To have a serious respect for the revealed facts of the Bible.

Psalm 19:8 (NKJ): *The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

(NIV): *The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*

(Moffatt): *A light to the mind*

You cannot go to Step 2 before you have taken Step 1.

You cannot receive wisdom until you first ask in faith with no doubting (James 1).

You cannot receive an answer to prayer until you pray; stop worrying; and begin thanking God for the answer (Philippians 4).

You cannot receive financial blessing until you tithe and give liberally, willingly and in faith expecting (Malachi 3; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9).

5. To let the context interpret the scriptures.

This is a fixed principle of Bible study.

Examples: Mark 10:29-30 (NKJ): *<sup>29</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.*

Romans 8:28 (NKJ): *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

John 9:2-4 (NKJ): *<sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

John 11:4 (NKJ): *When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.*

All words and statements of a speaker must be understood by the *context* in which the words are placed.

Because the Bible is the uniquely inspired revelation of God and the standard of truth in all matters of faith and practice, a portion of each day should be set aside to read, study and meditate God's Word.

**Sticky Statement**

The Bible is to the spirit what food is to the body.