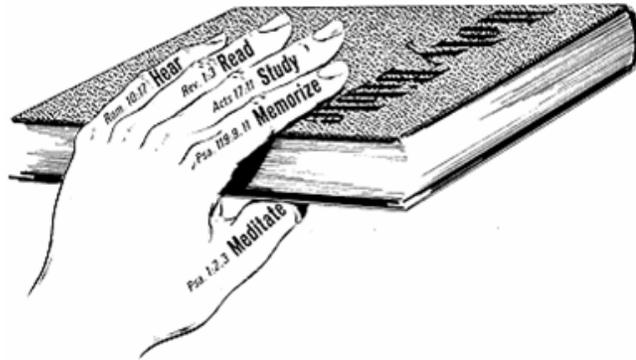


The Word Hand Illustration



Reading is an informal inquiry about a topic. Studying is a more structured discipline for long term retention.

HEARING the Word from godly pastors, teachers and disciplers provides us insight into others' study of the Scriptures as well as stimulating or own appetites for the Word. Interestingly, however, after only hearing most people can retain only 6-10% of what they heard.

READING the Bible gives us an overall picture of God's Word. Many find helpful a daily reading program allowing them to systematically work through the Bible. Interesting too, most people can retain 16-24% of what they've read.

STUDYING the Scriptures leads us into personal discoveries of God's truths. Writing down these discoveries helps us organize and remember them better. Even so, most people only retain 40-60% of what they have studied.

MEMORIZING God's Word enables us to use the sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations ... to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a "word in season". Utilizing this discipline, most people can retain 100% of what they've memorized.

MEDITATION is the thumb of the Word Hand, for it is used in conjunction with each of the other four methods. Only as we meditate on God's Word ... thinking of its meaning and application to our lives ... will we discover its transforming power at work in us.

4 Steps in Meeting with God Through the Word

- I. Plan
 - Make a commitment to meet with God every day
 - Get accountability with your friend or mentor
 - Commit to share what you learned with someone that day
- II. Prepare
 - Schedule your first available time each day to be with God
 - Find a consistent quiet place to sit
 - Don't get hung up on how much time it takes, simply start with 30 minutes
- III. Process
 - Have your Bible, daily Bible reading calendar, journal and pen
 - Pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word & teach you from It
 - Use a daily Bible reading calendar
 - Read the passage slowly
 - Write down observations or questions about what you are reading
 - Journal a specific application that you want to focus on that day
 - Make notes of verses you wish to memorize and add to your pack
 - Make note of any passages that you would like to go back and study
 - Take some more time to pray by:
 - 1) Praising God for who He is (praying Scripture is relevant here)
 - 2) Commit to share what you learned with someone today
 - 3) Thank God for specific blessings in your life
 - 4) Make requests to God on behalf of your family, friends and yourself. Using a prayer list will be helpful

Here are questions to ask about a passage to help you to apply it to your life. You can remember it via the mnemonic: **PACER STEPS**. Is there any

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| P romise to claim? | S in to confess? |
| A ttitude to change? | T ruth to believe? |
| C ommand to obey? | E xample to follow? |
| E rror to avoid? | P rayer to pray? |
| R evelation from the Word? | S omething to thank God for? |

- IV. Ponder
 - What barriers keep you from committing your life to the Word?
 - Try experimenting with more time of prayer, meditation, music, movement, and/or devotional guides. Variety is a good thing!
 - Need help? If so, commit to talk with a friend or Navigator staff
 - Do you want to commit your life to the Word? If not, why?

REMEMBER, this is a relationship, not a homework assignment!

NOTES

The Word Hand Illustration

