



LIFE NEWS

Back

to

basics
part 2

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About a month ago, I asked how your year was going and proposed it was time to refresh and return to the basics. Doing the fundamentals, so to speak, is important in lots of areas of life. Just because we do complex algebraic equations doesn't mean we still don't do basic arithmetic. Because we know how to bake a chocolate tart doesn't mean we don't need to do the fundamental thing of properly measuring and combining ingredients. When a sports team is having a tough time executing, you almost always hear a statement about getting back to the fundamentals of the game and simplifying things. The same thing applies to our Christian walk. We can do many spiritual practices to help make space for God, but the basics will always be prayer and reading the Bible.

We talked about prayer last month. This month I want to ask what are you doing for Bible reading these days? There are many ways to study the Bible. Remember last summer when I talked about the S.O.A.P. method (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer)? There are an endless number of reading plans (check out the YouVersion app)- if you want to

go through the Bible in a year, three years, or a month.

There are plans out there if you just want to study the gospels for a year, etc. You could be reading a Proverb to match the day of the month (Today is the 18th, so I read Proverbs 18). You can read the Bible very slowly, working through and dwelling on a passage for a day or many days at a time. You can trace a topic throughout the Bible (for instance, looking at what the Bible says on grieving). You can study a person in the Bible like the apostle Peter. You can do an inductive study. You can do a word study of the original language. There are lots ... and lots ... and lots of ways to read Scripture.

As you can see from the list above, Scripture can be approached in many ways. The important thing is, are you reading it? More so, are you reading it and allowing God to speak to you through it? It is the primary way God speaks to us. We cannot move away from it. If we want to grow in our walk with God, we must be in Scripture on a consistent basis.

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Scripture is, for good reason, one of our fundamentals.

So I will state the question again: What are you doing for Bible reading? If you aren't doing anything, find a way to start. If what you are doing is overwhelming (i.e., reading 30 chapters a day), consider for a season reading less and reflecting more deeply on the passage you read. If you feel stagnant, consider taking a different approach to reading Scripture.

Practical Tips:

Here are some practical tips and basic ones you probably heard before but remember, we are going back to the fundamentals.

- Pick a consistent time and place. It doesn't have to be 6 a.m., but a consistent time and place will help you block off a portion of the day when you know you will do it.
- Read a translation you understand. If you don't understand the version you are reading, find a version you do understand. "Thees" and "Thous" don't work for everyone.
- Pray and ask God to reveal Himself in the Scripture. Don't be like the Pharisees who knew the Scriptures but missed God in them.
- Scripture is meant to help you understand God and what He is like and how He wants you to live. It's about Jesus.

Let's get back to the basics of prayer and Bible reading, my friends. This will go a long way to help keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Ps 119:105
Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.