

Why I Hold the *Bible* As My Most Prized Possession

and Study, Memorize, and Meditate upon It So That I Can Share It

The *Bible* is your most prized possession. It is to be studied, memorized, and meditated upon every day of your life. You cannot look at the *Bible* the way you look at any other book. You see, Christianity is God working in the lives of people. It is not a religion. It is God Himself interacting in His children's lives. Christianity is not a belief system; it is a relationship.

When you think of the *Bible*, think of God being in contact with people. In the Old Testament you see God interacting with Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:16-17), Noah (Genesis 6:13-14), Abraham (Genesis 12:1-20), Isaac (Genesis 26:2-5) Jacob (Genesis 32:29), Moses (Exodus 3:4-10), and David ((II Samuel 6:16) . He speaks to people all through the Old Testament.

God reached down to be in close touch with you. He sent His son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life, to give His life for yours on the Cross, to rise from the dead, and to sit at the right hand of the Father, all for you! (I Corinthians 15:4: John 3:16). The gift of eternal life is a gift. You must receive it.

You know if you have received eternal life in Christ Jesus. If you have not or if you wonder if you have, please pray this prayer right now. "Father, I come to You in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ, I ask Him to come into my heart right now. I receive forgiveness for all of my sins through the blood of Jesus Christ that He shed for me. I turn from my sin. I choose to live for You. I know now that I am forgiven. I know now that I have eternal life. I will live with you from now on and forever. Thank you for saving me, dear heavenly Father. I know that I am born again of the Spirit. I thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

Tell someone of your new birth. Read the Bible each day and talk to God. Begin a journal of what God does each day in your life and what He tells you. Choose a special time each day to spend with God in His Word and in prayer. Twice a day is even better! Listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to bring people into your life who want to know about Him. Live in the joy of the Lord!

Here is a simple explanation of the Bible: Think of the Bible as two wills, testaments or inheritances. The Old Testament revealed the Law that judges every person and finds every person guilty of breaking it. (Is there anyone who has not broken one of them in thought, word, or deed?). The Law condemns and

requires a sacrifice. God spoke of this sacrifice at the beginning of the *Bible* (Genesis 3:15).

God gave us the Bible to reveal Jesus Christ, His son to us. Every book of the Bible reveals Jesus Christ. Chuck Missler says that the Old Testament is Jesus Christ concealed (you have to look for Him). The New Testament is Jesus Christ revealed. Enjoy getting to the know Father and the Son through the Bible. Every time you open the Bible, expect to meet with God.

God knew the choices each man and woman could make and that Adam and Eve did make (Genesis 2 and 3). Their sin resulted in your being born with the ability to sin, with a sin nature. God's plan from the beginning was to send His Son, Christ Jesus, to be the acceptable sacrifice for your sin (John 3:16).

Every time you read, study, memorize, or meditate upon the *Bible*, know that God is speaking to you, just as He spoke directly to the people in the Old Testament and as Jesus Christ spoke to the people directly in the New Testament. God the Father, Christ Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit speak to you today. One of the ways is through the *Bible*. Every encounter you have with the *Bible* is an encounter with God Who loves you so much.

The *Bible* does not save you. Following every single instruction in the *Bible* will not save you. The Law was written to prove that no one could keep it and to reveal the need for a Savior (Romans 3:20). The *Bible* is God's living words to you, but every word points to Christ Jesus. In Him all of God is found and expressed clearly for you (Colossians 2:9).

God warned the Pharisees that they were following all of the Law that they knew. He told them that they thought eternal life was found in the Scriptures, but it is not. It is found in Christ Jesus (John 5:37-40). I cannot emphasize enough how Christ Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything, the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 1:8).

We follow God's moral instructions because He set them for our highest good. We note what Christ Jesus told us to do while we are here on the earth. We spend our lives honoring him by doing what He did and what He told us to do in His power and in His strength (John 14:12).

Each time you approach the *Bible*, you are developing your relationship with God. Just as every relationship is two people communicating to each other, so is your relationship with God. God talks and you listen. You talk and God listens.

Many years ago, I began using Dick Eastman's *The Hour That Changes the World* (see www.ehfc.org - Every Home for Christ) for my personal *Bible* study. There are twelve ways of praying. Each one is an exciting experience in itself. Each one is an intimate way to talk with God. Sometimes I spend the whole time on just one of the ways. Sometimes I do some in the morning and continue them throughout the day. Each way is very special to me. They are all directed to the Lord: Praise, Wait, Confess, Scripture Pray, Watch, Intercede, Petition, Thank, Sing, Meditate, Listen, and close with Praise. I learned them as an acronym: PWC-SP; WIPT; and SMLP.

I always anticipate the "Listen" part and write down what I hear in my heart that God is speaking to me. I treasure this way of worshiping and loving God and having a conversation with Him.

I always have a portion of Scripture that I am memorizing, such as Psalm 1; Psalm 23, and Psalm 100. The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12 are a magnificent exercise. I learned II Timothy Chapter Three because it describes today. I like to pray Psalm 91 each morning. Wherever I am, I can meditate upon the Word of God because it is in my heart. I believe that we all must put as much of God's Word in our hearts as we possibly can. We do not know how long the Bible will be freely available to us.

I also like to read Psalm 1, 31, 61, 91, and 121 on the first day of the month. The second day is Psalm 2, 32, 62, 92, and 122. Each day progresses to the next Psalm. Psalm 119 is extra long. It is magnificent. I also like to read the Proverb for each day. Proverbs 1 is for the first day of the month. Proverbs 31 is for the last day of the month. I strongly believe that if every family will read a Proverb each day aloud together that the character of God will be imprinted on each heart.

When the children are older, they will remember the second half of the Proverb; that is, what happens when you do a certain action that goes against all that is godly and good. There is a consequence that ultimately will end in death if the action continues too long. There is an enemy whose determination is to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10).

I discovered in our bookcase *Spurgeon's Study Bible*, published in 1979. Charles Spurgeon lived in London from 1834 to 1892. Baker Book House published it in 1964, 1974 and 1975. I believe that they republished what was originally *Spurgeon's Morning and Evening*. The entire Bible can be covered in one year if I read one page in the morning and one page in the evening. I usually read much more ☺ Every time I have a free moment, I open and am relishing every page. I am also enjoying

My favorite *Bible* for many years has been and still is a key source of God's wisdom for me is the *Salem Kirban Reference Bible*. The three authors are Charles H Spurgeon, Gary G Cohen, and Salem Kirban. The entire Bible has keys beside verses to denote the time period for the passage. The words of Jesus Christ are in red. The Book of Revelation is outlined with detailed commentary. Both of these *Bibles* can be found on the Internet. Salem Kirban's *Bible* is out of print but available and costly but worth every penny.

I have a keyboard and am learning to play Scripture songs. I have a program that is out of print, but you can learn the chord system for gospel songs to play on the keyboard for free on the Internet. Worshipping God with His Word is a deep joy ☺

So, here is a glimpse of how I study the *Bible* and spend time with God. I begin and end each day on my knees first and last thing talking with God. I do one or more of the above encounters with God each day, not all of them ☺. I also have a prayer notebook where I keep my Bible notes and my prayer journal. My time in the *Bible* and in prayer are how I continue to grow closer to the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. One day, when we see Jesus Christ, we will know Him as He knows us. (I Corinthians 13:12). Christianity is a relationship. I am so blessed to know and to keep knowing increasingly better my Father, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit (I John 5:7). I pray the same glorious relationship for you (Revelation 22:17).

When I am in my car (if I am not listening to Pimsler's Spanish learning program) or if I have some time at my desk when I don't have to concentrate, I listen to the Bible on a free audio Bible at Biblegateway.com.

I have been studying the Bible since I could read, but I realize how little I know. I have taken many Bible college classes. I still realize how little I know. The

more I know, the more I know how little I know. Knowledge of God's Word is a glorious journey. yet I know God Himself, His son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit intimately. I live to make them known to others.

God has commissioned each of us to tell others of His great gift of His Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). My goal each day is to be so filled with the fullness of God that others will see Jesus Christ in me (Ephesians 3:19). I also want to be ready, anointed by God, to impart the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to each person I meet each day. I am preparing my personal testimony to carry with me to give to people when time or the situation does not allow for conversation. My desire is for every person to experience freedom in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:21; Galatians 2:4)☺ I can only give what I have☺ Time with God each day in the *Bible* and in prayer keeps me in God's presence where His power and His glory can be imparted through me to others☺ I pray for God's love to shine through you gloriously to others each day as well!