

HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD



*Blessed is the man...
[whose] delight is in the law of the LORD;
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
—Psalm 1:1-2*

Here are some simple rules for Bible reading. First, read God's Word with great reverence. Meditate a moment in silence on the thought that the words come from God Himself. Bow in deep reverence. Be silent before God. Let Him reveal His Word in your heart.

Second, read with careful attention. If you read the words carelessly, thinking that you can grasp their meaning with your human understanding, you will use the words superficially and will not enter into their depths. When someone tries to explain anything wonderful or beautiful to us, we give our entire attention to try to understand what is said. How much higher and deeper are God's thoughts than our thoughts! *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are...my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isa. 55:9). We need to give our undivided attention to understand even the superficial meaning of the words. How much harder it is to grasp the spiritual meaning!

Next, read with the expectation of the guidance of God's Spirit. It is God's Spirit alone that can make the Word a living power in our hearts and lives. Read Psalm 119. Notice how earnestly David prayed that God would teach him, open his eyes, give him understanding, and incline his heart to God's ways. As you read, remember that God's Word and God's Spirit are inseparable.

Finally, read with the firm purpose of keeping the Word day and night in your heart and in your life. The whole heart and the whole life must come under the influence of the Word. David said, *"O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day"* (Ps. 119:97). In the same manner, in the midst of his daily work, the believer can cherish God's Word in his heart and meditate on it. Read Psalm 119 again, until you accept God's Word with all your heart. Pray that God may teach you to understand it and to carry out its precepts in your life.