

## Reading The Bible

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The Grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his Grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his Grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his Grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His Son. Take time to read a portion of God's Word each day.

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### Sixteen Reasons to Read the Bible Daily

1. To follow God's commands

*John 8:31-32* So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

*Psalms 119:1-8; 105-112*

2. To be rid of anxiety and have peace

*Psalms 119:161-168*

3. To set things right when life is out of control

*Psalms 19:7-8* The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

4. To have direction and know God's will

*Psalms 119:105; 119:9-16*

5. To experience healing and deliverance

*Psalms 107:20* He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

*Psalms 119:153-160*

6. To grow in the Lord

*2Timothy 3:16-17* All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

*1Peter 2:2* like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

7. To have strength, comfort and hope

*Psalms 119:28,114; 119:49-56*

8. To shape yourself and your life correctly

*Psalms 119:11; 33-40*

9. To be able to see clearly

*Psalms 119:97-104; 129-136*

10. To know what's really in your heart

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

11. To have joy

**Psalms 119:25-32**

**Psalms 16:11** You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

12. To understand God's power

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

13. To build faith

**Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

14. To have more life in this life

**Psalms 119:50; 113-120**

15. To distinguish good from evil

**Psalms 119:101-102**

16. To understand God's Love for you

**John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

### **10 Ways To Find Time To Read The Bible**

1. Wake up ten minutes earlier each morning and read.
2. Keep a Bible close to your bed to read each night before you go to sleep.
3. Talk less and you will have a few more minutes to read.
4. Keep a copy of the Bible on hand in the kitchen or at the telephone to read while you "hold."
5. Turn the TV off and read to your children.
6. Carry a copy of the Bible, at least the New Testament, in your pocket or purse to read while waiting for doctors, or unpunctual people, etc.
7. Never go on a trip without your Bible in your suitcase.
8. Keep a copy of the Bible in the glove compartment of your car.
9. Remember, a Bible in your hand is worth two on the coffee table.
10. Read several verses before each meal when all the family is together.

-----via, Family Report.

**Does your desire to know God's Word equal that of the Psalmist?**

**Psalm 119:169-176**

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