

Week 4: Methods for Bible Study

Speaker: Herb Harrington

PURPOSE: To equip believers with the needed tools for studying the Bible effectively, and developing a greater confidence in their faith and ability to share that faith with others.

I. The Importance of Bible Study:

A. Why Study the Bible?

- It's the Inspired Word of God (II Timothy 3:16)
- It's not enough just to hear the preached word at church (Romans 10:17)
- We need to reinforce the preached word with study (Acts 17:11)
- Personal Bible study will give us a deeper understanding of God, His attributes, and His plans for man.
- Personal Bible study will make us strong Christians (I John 2:14)

B. The Dangers of Neglecting Bible Study

- It will cause a lack of spiritual maturity and growth (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- It will weaken our spiritual armor making us more susceptible to temptations and spiritual attacks (Ephesians 6:11-17)
- We will be more vulnerable to listen to false teaching (Hosea 4:6)
- False doctrines frequently have enticing tones or will discreetly misrepresent or take a scripture out of context in order to deceive (Genesis 3:1)
- Reflection Prompt: What is keeping me from studying the Bible?

II. Practical Methods for Bible Study

Start with Preparation:

- Gather materials (Bible, notebook, commentary, etc.)
- Begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for understanding

Choose a Study Method:

- Topical Study: Select a theme such as salvation, holiness, love, joy, peace, etc.
- Character Study: Examine the lives of biblical figures like David, Noah, Samuel, Peter, etc.
- Verse-by-Verse: Study scripture line by line to fully understand context and message
- Contextual Study: Explore literary, historical, cultural, and traditional background
- Word Study: Dig into key terms using original Greek or Hebrew to unlock deeper meaning

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Things to Think About:

- How consistent have I been in personal Bible study over the past month?
- What specific obstacles or excuses have kept me from studying God’s Word more deeply?
- Which method of Bible study would help me engage Scripture more intentionally this week?
- How confident do I feel in recognizing and resisting false teaching?
- What steps can I take to reinforce what I hear in sermons through personal study?

THERE ARE THREE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS

(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS

WHAT DO WE FIND IN THE GOSPELS?

1. Ministry of John the Baptist
2. The birth of Jesus
3. The life of Jesus
4. The ministry of Jesus Christ
5. The calling of His disciples
6. His miracles
7. His death, burial, and resurrection

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WHAT WE DO **NOT** FIND IN THE GOSPELS

No Christian Church founded in the Gospels.
(Matthew 16:18)
Not one person received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. (John 7:38,39)

Men could repent and have their sins forgiven in the Gospels.

Examples:

- A. The thief on the cross. (Luke 23:43)
- B. The man with the palsy. (Mark 2:5)

However: Full Salvation or conversion was not possible until after Jesus was crucified and ascended. (Luke 22:32, Acts 1: 4, 8)

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WARNING!

We must go on to the Book of Acts to find where the first church was founded.
Full Salvation was first experienced on the Day of Pentecost!

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IMPORTANT

Note the authority given to the Apostles by the Lord. (John 17:20)

LIFE OF JESUS

ACTS

(Book of Salvation)

WE LEARN HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN

WHAT DO WE FIND IN ACTS?

Men were Born Again (John 3:5 fulfilled!)

The first church founded on the Day of Pentecost.
(Acts 2: 1-4)

WATER BAPTISM

In the Name of Jesus Christ

Church at Jerusalem (Acts 2:30)
Church at Samaria (Acts 8:16)
Church at Caesarea (Acts 10:48)
Church at Ephesus (Acts 19:5)

All the Apostles Jesus, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, prayed until they were filled with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 1:13-14, 2:4)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

Evidence: They Spoke With Tongues

Church at Jerusalem founded (Acts 2:4)
Church at Caesarea founded (Acts 10:44-48)
Church at Ephesus founded (Acts 19: 1. 5. 6)

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WARNING!

Not one person in the entire Bible was ever baptized using the words, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)

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IMPORTANT

If the Apostles and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were wrong in believing the above Scriptures, then there is no hope for any of us. (Gal. 1:8-9)
You will not make a mistake by obeying Acts 2:38!

CHURCHES FOUNDED

EPISTLES

(Romans through Revelation)

WE LEARN HOW TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE

WHAT DO WE FIND IN THE EPISTLES?

These books were written to the churches....
AFTER they were baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and...AFTER they received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking with tongues.

WHY WERE THE EPISTLES WRITTEN?

To instruct born-again Christians (not sinners)

1. How to live
2. How to worship
3. Church discipline
4. How to develop the Fruits of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:22-23)

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WHAT WE DO **NOT** FIND IN THE EPISTLES

1. Not one person was baptized in all the Epistles.
2. Not one person received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in all the Epistles.

The reason:

They had already been baptized and received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, otherwise these churches could not have been founded.

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WARNING!

Ephesians 2:8 1 Corinthians 12:30
1 John 3: 14 1 John 5:1 Ephesians 5:26

These Scriptures are Epistles and written to churches already born-again. They were never intended to be used as a substitute for the plan of Salvation.

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ARE YOU READY FOR THE RAPTURE?

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-17 John 14:3

INSTRUCTIONS TO CHURCHES