

Bible Study Tips

Our motivation for studying God's word is not mainly to know more about God, but to know the God of the Bible. Jesus speaks of knowing God in John 17:3, and Paul as well in Philippians 3:8. One way to know God and His heart is to:

- Study His attributes and character
- Study Biblical characters and their relationship with God

"A Method of Bible Study"

- A. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Study of the Word.
- B. Read over the passage you have chosen. Read it in 2 or 3 different translations. Read it several times.
- C. Outline or paraphrase the passage.
- D. Write out what you think are the most important verses, while writing underneath each one the most important related verses from other parts of scripture which you find in your marginal reference.
- E. List the main points of the passage.
- F. List difficulties, either of understanding or of following what the text teaches, or of explaining the passage to others.
- G. What does the passage say about:
 1. God, the Father?
 2. God, the Son?
 3. God, the Holy Spirit?
- H. Specific applications. Additional questions to ask.
 1. What does it teach me?
 2. Where do I fall short?
 3. What am I going to do about it?
 4. How do I make it a part of daily life?

Biographical Study of A Character

Step 1: Locate and record all scripture references of the person. You may need to use an exhaustive concordance.

Step 2: Outline the character's life by asking the following questions:

1. What do we know of his/her family?
2. What kind of training did he/she have as a youth?
3. What was accomplished by him/her during his/her life?
4. Was there a great crisis in his/her life? If so, how did he/she face it?
5. What were his/her outstanding character traits?
6. Does his/her life show any development of character?
7. What was his/her experience with God? Notice his/her prayer life, their faith, service to God, knowledge of God's word, courage in witnessing and attitude toward the worship of God.
8. Were there any particular faults in his/her life?
9. Was there outstanding sin in their life? How did this come about? What was its affect on him/her?
10. Was there some lesson in this person's life which is outstanding to you?
What can you learn from this person's life?