


Reading the Word of God




We know how important it is for us to allow God to speak to us through his written Word. Now, let's consider a methodology for doing that. In the introduction to Lesson 1 (*A Guide on Getting to Know God*), I talked about the “open Bible” method—just opening the Bible and reading whatever appears before your eyes! Well, that's like going to the kitchen cupboard, closing your eyes and grabbing something to eat. While it may be better than nothing at all, your diet will not be very well-balanced, and probably not that tasty!


There are many good ways to systematically read the Word of God. I'm going to give you three suggestions, and indicate the method I use and why. But the important thing is that you find a method which suits you.

Method #1:













 Choose one book (or portion of a larger book) and read that entire book every day for one month. For instance, the book of Ephesians has six chapters and could easily be read in one sitting. If you read Ephesians every day for one month, you'd really be familiar with the truth in that book. It would be indelibly entered into your mind.

 I think this is an excellent thing to do, but I would also combine it with other readings in the Bible to have a balanced diet. For instance, read the book of Ephesians every day along with a chapter in one of the Gospels and a chapter or two from the Old Testament.

Method #2:

 Read the Bible through from beginning to end in one year. Many people do this, and it's certainly a good idea. You can get published guides as to how much to read each day in order to cover it in one year. I like ones that give you a balanced diet of Old and New Testaments each day.

Method #3:

-  On a daily basis:
-  Read one chapter from a Gospel
 -  ·Start in Matthew, go through John and start again in Matthew.
-  Read one chapter from the remainder of the New Testament
 -  ·Start in Acts, go through Revelation and start again in Acts.
-  Read one Psalm
 -  ·Start at Psalm 1, go through Psalm 150 and start over again.
-  Read one chapter from Proverbs
 -  ·There are 31 chapters, so it's easy to match the chapter with the day of the month.
-  Read two other Old Testament chapters
 -  ·Start at Genesis and go through Job, then start again in Genesis.
 -  ·Start in Ecclesiastes and go through Malachi, then start again in Ecclesiastes.

This is the method I use. I like it because it keeps me going through the entire Bible, but it also keeps me focused on the words and life of Jesus at all times, as well as the praise nature of the Psalms and the practical, everyday guidelines I gain from Proverbs.

I keep a card in my Bible that lists the last chapter read, so I'll know where to start each day.

Choose from these, combine them into one of your own, or come up with your own unique plan. The important thing is to read a good portion every day, to make sure it is a balanced diet from all parts of the Scripture, to keep track and be consistent.

But most of all, read it!

