

Reading the Bible for Real Change

Goal

Read better, learn faster, and remember more

Nehemiah 8:8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Acts 8:27-31 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

Myth 1

How do we learn?

Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic. (See, Hear, Touch)

The myth is a person excels in only one type. But that is not true. We use all of these to learn. To say you are primarily a visual learner create barriers and limit to learning. We need all. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Don't just be hearers of the word but doers. Apostle John speak of touching the Word.

Myth 2

How well do you know the scriptures?

What are the working of God plan?

Warning of the Illusion of Fluency

The highlighter trap – It help to see where you were and its appeal

The summary trap – i.e. note taking

The completion trap – Learning is a continuous process.

These are tools not fluency.

A Better Way to Read

To change your thinking change how you read.

Think of the book as training.

When I have something, I want to accomplish; I find information that will help me do it. Old days meant the library today it's the Internet. I was a frequent visitor to the library. Book stores.

Approach it with the mindset of mastering

- Complex issues
- Following an argument
- Holding opposing views
- Transform the mind through new evidence
- Form an opinion that is personal
- Develop new skills and habits.

The shift here is to move from being a passive reader into a serious active reader.

Here are 5 concepts toward better learning through reading.

You no longer are a spectator you become an A.C.T.O.R within the pages.

Move from consumption to construction being built up.

Ephes 2:20

[You are] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself being the principal stone by which the entire building is aligned.

1 AIM

“If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time” Zigler

The word sin is an old English archery term. The meaning is “missing the mark” Likewise when reading it is prudent to have something to aim at.

Start by asking

I am reading this (book, article, chapter) because I need to _____.

Start with the end in mind.

Some examples and ideas.

- Relationship – marriage
- Get to know God, Jesus, Holy Spirit better
- Handle finances
- Build faith
- Share my faith
- How to be more merciful
- How to do things God’s way
- Handling conflicts with others

By giving purpose to what you are reading provide you with a specific purpose. And when you dive in the goal is to move toward that purpose.

You decide what you want out of reading.

1 Cor 9:26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

Phil 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

BIBLE – Basic, Instructions, Before, Leaving, Earth

Luke 14:28-33 Is an example of having a goal before starting something

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Here is another example of planning ahead and building upon a foundation.

Luke 6:48-49 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

#2 Compress

Don't read to carry more read to carry less.

To compress is to reveal the main idea, the core topic.

Like giving it a 5 word title.

Summarize in one it one sentence.

Metaphor of a tree

Tree us made up of various elements. There is the Root, the trunk, the branches and the leaves. Jesus used tree many times to make a point.

Here is how to look at the tree to help Compress the main idea

The trunk is the core, branches are the chapters, the leaves are the supporting elements. Quotes, examples, stories and details.

Many times, we read like we are collecting leaves. When learning, it is important to understand the basic core as everything branches from there.

John 15:5 I am the vine you are the branches.

Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

Col 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

#3 Test

When reading you may come across something that seem strange, odd or maybe don't agree with. As you read act like a spy gathering intelligence.

Ask yourself "Why did this bother so much". Why is this here?

Gather evidence – test validity of what you learn.

This is vital especially for those individuals who are new to the faith. The Bible is a book that will transform lives. Meaning, coming from a secular mindset into a Biblical one will challenge many ingrained beliefs.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Thess 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

When it comes to "Christian" books and authors it is important to examine this information. The Bible is the autoreactive truth text.

Without a test, there is no testimony.

#4 Own it

Experiment

Group one: Read same passage over several times (10x)

Group two: Read a portion looked away and thought about what they just read. (1x) Then moved on

Group two was able to recall much more than group one

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

1 Tim 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Recall an association with a real life situation that supports what you have read.

Teach it to someone.

- Face to face
- Create an article or post and share it
- Record it
- To yourself in a mirror

If you can teach it, you will own it.

Live it

#5 Run

Think of reading as a software update. It has the ability to rewire the way you think and act. This is the point where you are to live out and apply what you learned.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Recap

The goal - Read better, learn faster, and remember more.

Be the A.C.T.O.R and learn actively

A = Aim – Set a target for the thing you want to learn

C = Compress – Discover the core concept or idea.

T = Test – Question to validity of what you are learn to see if it is true

O = Own – Teach or Share what you learn

R = Run – Apply what you learn is real life situations