

## **Living a Fruitful Life Getting Rooted by Daily Personal Bible Reading and Study, #2**

**Intro: If we want to live a fruitful life, we must maintain our relationship with the Lord and avail ourselves of the life-giving power of His word. One of the ways that we do that is through assembling together; and I appreciate the emphasis that many of you giving to the value of God's arrangement for us to hear His word and worship Him together.**

**However in our lesson last week we noticed that another way that we avail ourselves of the life-giving power of the word is through our personal daily Bible reading and study. And we looked at three things that this daily discipline can do for us.**

- Gives us evidence upon which to build our faith
- Gives us the information to discern truth from error
- Gives us insight into the overall plan of God

**Any one of these would be a good reason to read and study our Bibles every day; but there are more reasons we need to consider. And we can put them under this general heading:**

**Daily personal Bible reading and study fulfills our deepest personal spiritual needs.**

Though our public Bible studies are important, there are two things they cannot do.

Public Bible studies cannot give us a total familiarity with the word of God. There is simply not enough time to do that. There will always be "gaps" that need to be filled.

Public Bible studies can not always address the different needs, problems and challenges going on in each person's personal life. Everyone is experiencing these things at different times. Thus, public worship, though always helpful, does not always meet the current needs that we have.

But if you are regularly reading and studying the Bible, you are able to relate the Scriptures to your own needs and problems. And the Scriptures can help us at every turn of life.

### ***It will feed the inner person***

Most Americans are well fed physically; but a lot of them suffer from spiritual starvation. We gorge ourselves on spiritual junk food and miss the real nourishment of the word of God. If we believe that we are more than a body, then we can appreciate Jesus' words to Satan.

*But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" (Mt. 4:4)*

Later he would say to the masses that came craving only loaves and fish.

*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (John 6:63)*

Jesus may be using the images of the creation when God breathed his very spirit and life into the inanimate clay from which the first man was formed. What a picture—that we may through our study of the word of God, breathe into ourselves the very breath of the Creator and live by it!

***It will protect us from the lure of temptation***

The Scriptures inoculate us from the disease of sin. It prepares our hearts to see the deception in Satan’s appeals—the hook in that baited offer.

*Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee. (Ps. 119:11)*

In the gospels we can see how Jesus lived out this principle in his temptation by responding to Satan with a word from God for every temptation.

Strengthened by the power of truth he resisted the appeals of Satan. And so can we!

***It will give us direction in times of uncertainty***

The more complicated life gets, the more we need answers we can trust. Last week we talked about how the Scriptures help us know truth from error. But more than that, they serve as a real guide to our daily decisions and relationships. Jesus made a bold claim about that.

*Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*

Likewise the psalmist had come to appreciate the value of having God as His advisor!

*Thy testimonies also are my delight; they are my counselors. (Ps. 119:24)*

Where do you go for advice? Wouldn’t it be better to take the counsel of the one who made it all than Dr. Phil?

***It will give us correction in times of complacency***

Sometimes we just need in life to be awakened to our duty, our responsibility. We need to hear a word of caution and correction in times of complacency.

*Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:11-12)*

*Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (Ps. 19:11)*

Reading God’s word provides the wake up call we may need to stay focused on what’s right and see the dangers that lie ahead if we don’t repent.

**Conclusion: Here again are numerous reasons to get rooted by daily Bible reading and study. Don’t do this merely because of the pressure of a well-intentioned preacher or fellow-Christian; do it for the sake of your own inner well-being. Do it because it is the only way to tap into the life-change power of God’s revelation to us.**