

# The Importance Of Daily Study Of The Christian Bible

**In the many articles on the Holy Spirit on this website the importance of the Holy Spirit to be at work in our lives is clearly shown.**

**Galatians 5:22-23** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

**Here we see the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the very characteristics of our Creator God that we must have to be a part of His created family, who will be given eternal life.**

How are these wonderful fruits to become a part of our life?

The Holy Spirit works in our life in the same way as all the rest of God’s creation, according to laws.

**There is throughout the physical creation a cause to every effect.**

There is a cause for the effect of the fruits of the Holy Spirit becoming part of our character.

**John 14:16-17** [NIV] *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counsellor** to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Jesus Christ calls the Holy Spirit *“another counsellor.”*

The Greek word used is *“paraklētōs”* with the literal meaning of one who is called to be at our side, our advocate who gives us advice.

**The Holy Spirit does not by Himself put new knowledge into our minds, He only acts of the knowledge that is already there.**

**[Please read this statement at least three times to make sure it sinks into our minds.]**

**John 14:26** [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”***

**The Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and then brings those scriptures into our mind when we need to apply them to our lives.**

It is **only** when we respond to those remembered scriptures and act on them that they begin to become part of our character.

For example when someone is really trying to upset and hurt us, the Holy Spirit will remind us of **Matthew 5:44**, that we are to *“love our enemies.”*

**If we then act on this a little part of the very love of God will become part of our character.**

The *“agapé”* love that is the love of God has for all humans even those who hate, ignore or ridicule Him, His enemies.

**Agapé love:-** *“A spontaneous love, irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving that love, a sacrificial love where our selfish desires are sacrificed in order to show this love to others.”*

**If we had not studied Matthew chapter five, the Holy Spirit could not have done the work in us He wants us to do, bring that loving principle into the front of our mind.**

Also the “*agape*” love, the very love of our Creator God, could **not** even begin to become a part of our character.

**This love in us is essential if we are to receive the gift of eternal life, for we will still be the enemy of God who will end up eternally dead.**

Studying the Christian Bible is like putting money into a savings account, it will increase in value as the Holy Spirit works with it.

Then in a spiritual emergency, when we are tempted to sin, become once again the enemy of God, we can have instant access to this store of scriptures through the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

**A person, even if they consider themselves a Christian, who seldom studies God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is spiritually bankrupt.**

**Psalms 119:105** [NIV] *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

The more we study God’s Word, the Christian Bible, the more guidance in life the Holy Spirit can give to us.

**Lack of study limits the work of the Holy Spirit in us.**

**Psalms 119:10-16** [NIV] *“I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*hidden*” is “*tsâphan*” meaning to hoard or reserve.

**Psalms 119:5** [NIV] *“Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!”*

**The author of this psalm knew that their first reactions would always be selfish and resentful.**

Our mind has well-worn ruts or cart tracks in it put there over a lifetime of responding to our human nature as it takes us time and again down the same path of selfishness and resentment of the authority of any other being in our life, including our Creator God.

**James 1:23-24** [NIV] *“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”*

**We have a continual fight against our human nature which will put pressure on us not to respond to God’s Word, the Christian Bible, when we are confronted with its correction.**

This is Satan wanting us to flop back into our old way of responding to events in our life, for he knows in the end it will destroy us, as he and his influence in the end will face oblivion.

**Revelation 20:10, 15** [NIV] *“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” ... “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

Satan a spirit being will be tormented forever but the beast and false prophet who are human, along with all humans who reject the sovereignty of God will be burnt up.

**Malachi 4:3** [NIV] *“Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the LORD Almighty.*”

**The wicked returned to the elements from which their human bodies were made.**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**When we sacrifice our will to that of God, and allow the Word of God, the Christian Bible, along with the work of the Holy Spirit in us, to renew the way we think and respond, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, God’s character, will begin to form in our lives.**

The Holy Spirit will help us make this change if we provide Him with the right ingredients to work with, that is God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

What are these ingredients?

**a) A repentant mind**

**Romans 2:4** [NIV] *“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that **God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?**”*

God provides us with the first ingredient.

How does God do this?

**John 16:7-10** [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counsellor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;**”*

**It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of the sin we are committing.**

**James 1:23-24** [NIV] *“Anyone who listens to **the word** but does not do what it says **is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**”*

**The Holy Spirit will show us our real self and this gives us a chance to repent.**

The Holy Spirit does this through what may only be a chance hearing of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, at some function such as a funeral, the Holy Spirit will use such a time when our mind is slightly open to some part of the scriptures.

**b) A mind that received right knowledge**

This second ingredient is our part, God having supplied the first ingredient, and the source of this second ingredient is the Holy Scriptures, the Christian Bible.

**We have to set apart every day time to read and study God’s Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Ephesians 5:25-26** [NIV] *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, **cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,**”*

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, cleanses our mind of all the filth that the Satan-driven society has put into our mind.

**Hebrews 4:12** [NIV] *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

**The Word of God, the Christian Bible, will reveal to us the very motives behind the way we live, the words we say and the actions we take.**

**John 14:6** [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, have been given to all humanity by God the Father, to reveal who He is and the goal and desire He has for every human being.

The truth about why we exist, the way we should conduct our life and the hope of eternal life.

**John 17:17** [NIV] *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is the truth, accepting it will set us apart [this is what “sanctify” means] from the majority of people to be part of the “firstfruits”, that is the first group of people to enter into the created family of God.

**Romans 8:28-30** [NIV] *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

**This group of people have been called for a very special task.**

**Revelation 5:9-10** [King James] *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*

All who are called, accepted redemption through accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ are called to be leaders and teachers.

When will this time of leadership and teaching take place?

**Revelation 20:4-6** [NIV] *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”*

All who remain alive at the return of Jesus Christ will be led into accepting Jesus Christ as their Saviour and then learn God’s truth, the Christian Bible, this will continue for 1,000 years.

This task of education will then continue with those who died without having the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour, after they are resurrected to physical life again.

**Revelation 20:11-13** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea*

*gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

Notice it says “*the books were opened.*” The Greek word used is “*bibliōn*” meaning scroll or writing, referring directly to the books of the Christian Bible.

**If our future task is to teach others using the books of the Christian Bible, isn't it logical we should now be learning as much as we can as to their context to avoid embarrassment?**

**c) The third ingredient is a combined effort between us and God.**

**Philippians 2:13 [NIV]** *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

The Holy Spirit will strengthen our desire to study God's Word, the Christian Bible, but **only** after we have made the decision to go God's way of life as shown in His Word, the Christian Bible.

**God has given us a physical law that illustrates this combined effort between ourselves and our Creator God.**

**It is called the law of aerodynamics.**

An aircraft depends on this law to fly.

The aircraft will **not** rise off the ground until it has moved forward by its own power along the runway of the airfield.

Once this effort has been made, lift is given freely to overcome the pull of gravity and rise into the air.

But this forward effort has to be maintained if the aircraft is to remain in the air, never can it give up on its effort to go forward.

**James 4:8 [NIV]** *“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

**We have to constantly seek to know the mind of our Saviour Jesus Christ who is the very image of God the Father.**

**John 14:7-9 [NIV]** *“If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

**When we study the life and words of Jesus Christ we are drawing near to God.**

**John 14:12-14 [NIV]** *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

What was Jesus doing when He was on earth?

Revealing the very mind and character of God the Father, and training a group of people to continue that all-important revelation, by this I mean His church, the true Christian church.

**Psalms 141:3-4 [NIV]** *“Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies.”*

**We have to guard what we say but also guard what we allow to enter our minds, for this will determine what comes out of our mouth.**

**Matthew 12:34-37** [NIV] *“You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? **For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.** The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**”*

**We will be judged by God by what we allow to go into our minds.**

**Philippians 4:8-9** [NIV] *“Finally, brothers, **whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

Such words and thoughts are mainly found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, **not** the literature of this Satan-deceived society.

**Also remember that our minds cannot distinguish between synthetic and real experiences, so letting our mind drift into a fantasy “day dreaming world” is very harmful.**

**Matthew 5:27-28** [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that **anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**”*

**Allowing our mind to exercise itself in a sinful practice is the same as committing the very act itself.**

**Matthew 5:21-22** [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But **I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.** Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”*

**To hate a person is the same as murdering them, even if no action follows the thought.**

Each time we exercise our mind in wrong thought patterns we are digging the rut of our human nature a little deeper, so it will be much harder to climb out of that rut.

**What we let into our minds is going to flavour our actions.**

Quotation:- Dallin Oaks, President of Brigham Young University, USA, talking about pornography to students:

*“For your own good, avoid it. Pornographic erotic stories or picture are worse than filthy or polluted food. The body has built in defences that get rid of unwholesome food. With a few exceptions bad food will only make you sick but do no permanent harm.*

*“In contrast a person who feasts on filthy stories, pornographic or erotic pictures records them permanently in this marvellous retrieval system called our memory. The memory will **not** vomit back filth. Once recorded it will remain always a subject to recall, flashing its perverted images across our mind, drawing us away from the wholesome things in life.”*

Quotation:- J. Edgar Hoover, former Director of the F.B.I.

*“I believe that pornography is a major cause of sexual violence. We know that all sex criminals read it and are clearly influenced by it, and that in an overwhelming large number of cases, sexual crimes are associated with pornography. The results of a presidential commission on pornography*

*discovered in its research that in 55% of rape cases and 36% of general sexual crimes, there was a direct imitation of the pornography material being read.”*

**The Creator God built into the human mind this proclivity to develop conditional responses as a result of real or synthetic experiences to enable us to build right habit patterns and holy righteous character.**

**But Satan knowing this proclivity is using it to the full to destroy us spiritually.**

We, through constant study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, must use this wonderful proclivity.

Through a meditative study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, we can actually live through the descriptive events of the life and words of our Saviour Jesus Christ as if we were walking with Him when He was on earth.

**Psalms 119:148** [NIV] *“My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.”*

**The psalmist is telling us to not just read the scriptures but meditate on them every moment of our existence.**

Even use wakeful hours in the middle of the night, mentally rehearsing the right reactions we need to make when some future situation becomes a reality.

This dramatically increases our chances of reacting in the right way that will be pleasing to our Creator God.

We break wrong habit patterns by consistently forcing ourselves to think through in advance the right way to react in any situation using God’s Word, the Christian Bible, as our standard.

**2 Timothy 2:15** [NIV] *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

**We can never study God’s Word too often, for we need to store it in our memory bank** if we are ever to become like our Creator God in character and then be used by God as part of His plan for humanity in the future.

**Colossians 3:16** [NIV] *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”*

**“Let,” God will never force us to do anything.**

Most of us know the words of hymns we sing by heart, but do we meditate on the words we are singing and in our minds relate them to the scriptures we know in God’s Word, the Christian Bible?

**God caused the psalms to be recorded in His Word for this very reason.**

**Hebrews 5:11-14** [NIV] *“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

Note the writer of Hebrews mentions that we should be in a training programme, strengthening our spiritual muscles through our constant study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**Look on our daily study of God's Word, the Christian Bible, as a “*work-out*” that will keep us spiritually healthy.**

Other articles that should be studied alongside this article:-

*'What Should Be Our Approach To God's Word, The Holy Bible?'* [find under '*Bible Study*']

*'Why Meditate On The Scriptures In The Christian Bible?'* [find under '*Meditation*']