



HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

**...TRANSCRIPT OF A WORDFEST 2019 TEACHING ON
LIVING STONES BY BRO. DAMILOLA FEMI-ADEBOYE**

Hello Family, it's a great privilege to be able to teach once more. I want to thank my Spiritual Father – Rev. Temilolu Aliu. God bless you Sir

For the wonderful teachers that have brought to light the Mind of God concerning His words and Prayers...I say a big Thank you

So the topic for today - **HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

I'll kick off with this Illustration

One day, my dad and I were going out and suddenly our car developed a fault on the way and so we had to get a Mechanic. Due to the busy area, we had to move the vehicle to the Mechanics workshop which was at the back of a busy area.

So my dad told me to get down to buy Recharge cards so we could call those who would be expecting us for the meeting. He gave me a simple instruction, “Dami keep your eyes on the car so you'll be able to locate me after you get the card.”

As a big boy that I was trying to be, I was like don't I know the car again and so I stopped looking for few seconds. Brethren, By the time I raised my head up Lo and Behold right before my eyes I felt like I was a victim of a Magic trick gone wrong. I couldn't find the car. I left my phone in the car so there was no way I could call my father.

I walked up and down for the next 30 minutes panting and praying and looking so confused. After I had exhausted all my strength and ideas, I went back to where I left my father and good enough for me, My father was waiting for me there.

When I got to him and narrated all my adventures to him, he simply said “Why didn't you listen to my instruction”? The reason I gave us this story is for us to know that as Christians we must place our gaze and focus on Jesus if we will not lose the way.

His word - The Bible points us in the Right direction.

Psalm 119:1-40 talks about

- Blessedness of a man living according to the word
- Benefits of living according to the word
- How our existence is dependent on living according to the word
- How we get strength from the word
- How our instructions come from the word

Having established the Importance of the word, Let me emphatically say this without mincing words - You cannot study the Bible without the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14 (Living Bible)

But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything that I have told you

The letter is not what gives life. The Holy Spirit is the one that brings forth the life out of the letters. A lot of heresies and extra biblical revelations that some people bring forth are as a result of the flesh which is prone to manipulations...So we have upside down Revelation.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life

I'll give you an example of when a man thinks He is wise enough to study the Bible himself. I saw a post where someone said since God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one and Jesus said He is the way so there is something else after God...

When I used to play Space Impact on phone, there's a way the phone would vibrate when you hit an object...That was how my body shook. I couldn't believe my eyes

So, how then do we Study the Bible? In the study of the Bible, There are 4 questions that you could ask as you begin your study into the Bible.

1. What does the passage “say”?

Before you begin to make allegories or you begin to expound on the passage, understand what it is saying first. Another way could be to write down what the passage meant to the people for whom it was written; how the people would have reacted towards the message.

2. What does the passage “mean”?

Don't blow it out of context. Have a clear understanding of its meaning. The Holy Spirit is not an Author of confusion, He will guide you into all truths...and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free

3. How can I “apply” the passage to my daily life?

The Bible is not just there for us to read and have in our memory but for us to apply. Apply the timeless truth of God's word to today's world.

My father taught me that whenever I listen to a sermon or do a study I must have an Action Point to say what I would do as a result of what I have heard. Don't just write down what you would do but do it.

4. How does this passage “fit” into or relate to the rest of Scripture?

We make a lot of misinterpretation when we isolate a verse to suit our definition. The word of God keeps confirming itself even as scripture confirms scripture.

I'll give us a quick illustration of these 4 questions

Case Study: 1 Corinthians 3

Question 1 (What does the passage Say?)

The passage addresses the Issue of Division in the Church. They had created Church clubs like Football Clubs and everyone was fighting for the continuous existence of their club. It also talks about the sure foundation upon which he and others are working upon.

He made them understand that their wisdom could not get them far and that God considers their wisdom as folly.

Question 2 (What does the passage mean?)

Division can occur based on our human preference for a particular teacher or minister. We could do this in a way that makes us forget that Christ is the focus

Question 3 (How can I apply the passage to my daily life?)

I must be careful when it comes to forming opinions about ministers of God. I must do it in a way that I do not hinder myself from being blessed. I must place my focus on Jesus and leave human methods of assessment. It's not about eloquence of words or charisma but in the demonstration of power

Question 4 (How does this passage fit into or relate to the rest of the scripture?)

Hebrews 5:12 is one of those scriptures that lets us know that a Christian could be stagnant and not growing and before you know it, such person becomes worldly. So I choose to stay with the word, live according to the word and grow with the word.

Do we understand the 4 questions and how we can use them?

Thank God for Understanding

Brethren I must let us know that this is just a short and brief description of how much you can know from that Chapter. If only you would allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into the truth in His word.

Say with me, Holy Spirit, teach me... May the Holy Spirit teach us all in Jesus' Name.

I also want us to look at ways in which we can approach our study of the Bible

Book study - Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians

Chapter study - 1 Corinthians Chapter 1

Topical study - The Love of God

Biographical study - Apostle Paul

As we begin to round up, I want us to understand a couple of things;

- You have to be intentional about The Study of the Bible
- Prayer is very important. The Bible is not a novel so PRAY

In your study of the Word, allow the Holy Spirit to take control...The same John 3:16 that we take as a common verse can be what the Holy Spirit keeps opening up to a man for hours.

There are various materials and tools that are also available to aid the study of the Bible - Study Bibles, Bibles with Cross References, Concordance etc.

Commentaries and Books are also available However, all must be subject to the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit...

The most important of all is to be a Doer of the word...

James 1:22-25

And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves.

For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore or remember what he looks like.

But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does.

Shall we pray...?

Ask God to help you not to trivialize the place of the study of the word

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truths

Ask for Clarity...There would be no error or confusion.

Ask that the Mind of Christ be revealed unto you

Our loving father we thank You for teaching us all today. We ask that you help us in our study of your Word. Teach us Lord and let your name be glorified.

Amen!

Thank you all for being present. God bless you.

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