

FIVE WAYS TO DISCERN THE BIBLE!

Psalm 119:121-128

INTRODUCTION: If you are among so many having trouble living a victorious Christian life could it be because you are not reading the Word of God daily and not applying what you do understand from the Word of God. Today we will look at five ways to better understand the Word of God: Psalm 119:24-25.

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE TRUTH FROM GOD!

God's Word gives us the truth of God and without that Word we stumble through this life. John 17:17. The Word of God is the truth from our God: Psalm 119:30. Knowledge will increase but the truth never changes. Knowledge is increasing around the world at an amazing rate: Daniel 12:4. Sadly with all that increase in knowledge we have more crime, more suicides, more mental illness and more broken homes than at any time in history. Do you understand why that is true? It is because we are learning facts, not truth. Psalm 119:89. There is only one source of God's truth and it is the Word of God. Many in our land today have great knowledge but they do not know the truth found in God's Word.

II. THE WORD OF GOD IS OUR SOURCE OF GLADNESS!

To know God's truth gives us joy: Psalm 119:54. The laws of God are given for our welfare. When God says "Thou shalt not!" He is telling us don't hurt yourself. When He says "Thou shalt" He is saying help yourself to lasting happiness. Luke 11:28; John 15:9-11. Christian you will not find your joy and peace in knowledge but in the truth. If you long for true freedom: Psalm 119:45; Ephesians 6:10-18. The Word of God is our dagger to overcome Satan's deceptions. Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan but Jesus overcame Satan's deceptions with the Word of God. Jesus took a word from the Word of God and defeated Satan's lies. The Word of God is a source of spiritual victory and a source of spiritual growth: Psalm 119:32; 1 Peter 2:2-3. The desire for our hearts ought to be for the Word of the living God! Job 23:12.

III. THE WORD OF GOD IS A SOURCE OF POWER!

The Word of God is the source of the very power of God: Psalm 119:25. When you need the very strength of God look to His Word: Psalm 119:28; Hebrews 4:12. We read other books but the Bible reads us. The Bible gets into us and strengthens us with the very power of God! If you desire the power of God in your life get into the Word of God so it can get into you!

IV. THE WORD OF GOD IS A SOURCE OF GUIDANCE!

The Word of God is a source of gaining the very guidance of the living God! People will tell you they want to know the will of God for their lives. Just look at what God says to us! Psalm 119:105. Most of the will of God for our lives has already been revealed in the Word of God! So what is God's will for our lives: 2 Peter 3:9. God's will for you is to be saved! Are you saved? God wants you to be sanctified: 1 Thessalonians 4:3. God wants you to live a clean and pure life. God say He wants all of His children to be Spirit filled: Ephesians 5:15-20. If you will just follow the will of God for your life in those three areas you will gain the very mind of Christ and will be guided in this life by the Holy Spirit. Psalm 119:130; Psalm 119:105. If you will do the following five principles the Word of God will become very real to you: 1.) Pray Over the Word of God! Psalm 119:12. Have you ever prayed to the Lord to be your teacher when you study His Word? Here is a good prayer to start with: Psalm 119:18. When we pray to our heavenly Father to be our teacher of His Word He changes our hearts: Psalm 119:36. Our God can enlighten our hearts with His Word: Psalm 119:73. True spiritual learning from the Word of

God is the gift of God to us when we ask. 2.) You Need to Ponder Over God's Word! We must learn to meditate on God's Word: Psalm 119:15; Psalm 119:23; Psalm 119:97. The Word of God must get into our hearts in order to change our hearts: 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:127. The reason so many don't desire the Word of God is that their primary desires are on the things of this world: Psalm 119:47. You can claim to be too busy to really study God's Word but let me ask you "What are you busy doing?" Psalm Psalm 119:147-148. When you take time to study God's Word are you expecting Him to give you something? Take time to meditate on what you are learning. Don't go so fast. Meditate and let God speak to your heart. 3.) You Must Practice God's Word! If we really want to know the power of God in our lives we must practice the Word of God in our lives! Psalm 119:167-168. In order to understand the Bible we must obey the Bible. If we do not obey what we learn from God's Word, instead of being a blessing to us, our very knowledge of God's Word without obedience becomes a means of hardening our hearts. We must learn to obey immediately the truths we are learning from the Word of God: Ecclesiastes 8:8. The way to understand the parts of the Bible we don't understand is to obey the parts of the Bible we do understand. John 14:21. If you desire the Lord to be real to you then begin to obey His Word! 4.) You've Got to proclaim the Word of God! Our God does not just give us His knowledge for our own good or interest. God gives us His knowledge in order that we might pass it on to others: Psalm 119:13; Psalm 119:72. In other words: "Lord if You will teach me then I will tell it!" Here is a wonderful secret: The more of the Bible you give away, the more sticks to you. 5.) YOU MUST PERSONALIZE THE WORD OF GOD! The more we study the Bible the more we learn it is a Person we must look for everywhere in our world and everywhere in our lives and that Person is our Lord Jesus Christ: Psalm 119:135. As we study the Word of God read it so that the Person of Jesus Christ will shine upon you and within you. When we begin to study the Bible looking for our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible will become alive to us. Truly, what a blessing our God has given us in His Book, the Bible!