

THRIVE

(Habits of Grace)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, September 17/18, 2016 Ray Davis

“BIBLE” Psalms 119:1-11

Habits of grace are activities that are not about earning God's favor, or twisting God's arm, but about putting ourselves in the path of God's amazing Grace and increasing our capacity to enjoying Jesus so that we can THRIVE spiritually. No spiritual discipline is more important than a regular & consistent encounter with God through His Word that involves not only the convictions of the mind but the affections of the heart.

What Should I BELIEVE About God's Word?

- It has ultimate AUTHORITY

v1 law of the LORD (standard) v5 your statutes (permanently relevant) v6 your commandments (not optional)

- It is absolutely TRUSTWORTHY

V5 your statutes (sufficient) V7 righteous rules (infallible) V9 your word (inspired) All Scripture comes from God's very mouth and is true and not capable of error and needs no addendums (supplements/appendix/additions).

- It is all about JESUS

Vv2, 10 who seek Him with their whole heart (The Bible is a means to intimacy with God) V3 His ways (nature & character of God) v4 your precepts (consummate wisdom) vv38, 41, 50, 58, 76, 82, 116, 123, 133, 140, 148, your promise (Covenant—God binds Himself to save us) (Heb4:12; Jn5; Luke24)

What Should I FEEL About God's Word?

- DESIRE it.

Ps119:131 I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. Desire to keep the commands of God (vv5, 10, 17, 20, 40, 131). Desire to know & understand God's Word (vv18, 19, 27, 33, 34, 35, 64, 73, 124, 125, 135, 169). Psalmist so desired God's Word that he considered suffering to be a blessing if it helped him become more obedient to God's Word (vv67-68, 71).

- DELIGHT in it.

Ps119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! God's Word is his delight (vv14, 24, 47, 70, 77, 143, 174). The joy of his heart (v111), positively wonderful (v129) that he loves exceedingly (v167) Professes great love for God's Word (vv48, 97, 119, 127, 140) Troubled when others forsake God's Word (vv53, 139, 158)

- DEPEND on it.

Ps119:31 I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame! He is desperate for the encouragement in God's Word (vv50, 52) (Deut8:3; Matt4:4; Job23:12)

What Should I DO With God's Word?

- To learn, love and live God's Word is a fight—against our busy schedules, our distracted minds, and our stubborn hearts. But the benefits are infinitely greater than the cost! Keep it diligently (power/force/might) (v4); Be steadfast (firm/stable/ established/priority) in keeping it (v5); Guard (protect) your life according to it (v9); Seek it (practice) and not wander from it (v10)
- I must saturate my life with God's Word so that it springs to my mind, interprets my moments, guides my choices and satisfies my soul. Walk in it (vv1, 3); Keep His testimonies & seek Him (v2); I want to learn it (v7); Store it up in my heart (v11); Teach me (v12); I will declare it (v13); I will delight in it as in riches (v14); I will meditate on it (v15); Col3:16; Josh1:8
- Don't look for life lessons as much as you look to get a glimpse of your Savior who can satisfy the deepest longings of your soul. Ps119:131 Desire it, 103 Delight in it, 31 depend on it (Ps19:7-11; Pro2:1-5)

Growing Notes

Pray (Ps119:18, 37) and then read Psalms 119:1-11, 31, 103, 131

Follow this three step model for Bible Study:

Step 1: Observation—What does the passage say?

Context (historical, cultural, literary [both the book and the bible])

Content: key words, repetitive words or phrases, etc.

The Big Idea: 1) What is he talking about? (Subject)

2) What is he saying about what he is talking about? (Compliment)

Step 2: Interpretation—What does the passage mean?

First: What did the original author intend to convey to his readers?

Second: What role does this text play in the whole bible; how does it contribute to the gospel message and move along the main narrative arc of the Bible, which climaxes in the salvation of Jesus Christ? Creation/Fall/Redemption/Restoration What does this teach me about God? About human nature, character, and behavior? About Christ & His Salvation? About life with God's people (Church)?

Step 3: Application—What am I going to do about what the passage says and means?

S.P.E.C.K = Sin to confess? Promise to claim? An Example to follow? Command to obey? Knowledge about God?

Am I living in light of this? What difference does this make? Am I taking this seriously? If I believed and held to this, how would that change things?

When I forget this, how does that affect me and all my relationships?

What is God speaking to you from this study?

Meditate on a key verse or thought and respond in prayer.