

The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is alive 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.”

We all know we should read our Bible more. It’s not some new concept to us—if anything, it’s the oldest thing we’ve heard as Christians. We’ve all felt that embarrassing feeling during our discussions in gospel community groups when the question is asked: “So, what have you been learning in Scripture recently?” We’ve felt awkward when we’re asked how our “quiet time” is going and respond, “It’s not.”

But my point of this devotional isn’t to tell you that you should, nor to guilt you into it. You know that already, and you’ve likely already felt that guilt. My hope is to tell you why you should, and to be able to answer the questions of why we should we read our Bible. But to do that, we need to know the Bible says (and doesn’t say) about daily Scripture reading and how can we make this a regular discipline into our lifestyle.

I have personally never read through the entire Bible. When I was younger, I can remember trying over and over again, starting with Genesis and getting in maybe a few chapters, then giving up. I’m sure many of you can relate—you may even be there now. Throughout college, I was part of many Bible studies and devotionals with other Christian women and part of me felt that was enough. My thinking was basically that it wasn’t worth my effort. I’d say things like, “Well, I’m never going to understand or comprehend the entire Bible—so why even try?”

Finally in my 30’s, God has given me a deep conviction to read the Bible daily and understand these truths that we learn about every week. So, without sounding like this is just a typical New Year’s resolution, it has been weighing on my heart to start a reading plan. This year has started with many areas in my life that I would like to improve, but if you had to ask me the most important, I would tell you that reading my Bible daily to deepen my relationship with Christ was at the top of the list.

So why read Scripture? It’s simple, really. Because the all-knowing, loving God of our universe wrote it! 2 **Timothy 16 says “All scripture is God- breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** As a Christian, it’s impossible to experience the fullness of a relationship with God without knowing who he is. I’ve heard that so many times before, but recently, it hit me in a different way. How can I truly say I love Jesus and all he has done for me if I honestly don’t know who he is? Of course, there’s grace involved, but I genuinely believe this is why this has been put on my heart recently. As a Christian, we crave that relationship with our Creator and our Creator also craves that relationship with us.

When I started this devotional, I took some time to see what the Bible has to say about daily scripture reading. It was surprising to me to learn that the Bible doesn’t necessarily command a Christian to read the Bible daily. Instead, it commands a mindset more than a method—**“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it” – (Joshua 1:8)**. Is it a sin to not read your Bible daily? No. But it’s wrong to be ignorant or uninformed about who God is, which comes from daily Bible reading. There are

plenty examples of servants of the Lord having intense personal reading of scripture (King David, especially). Jesus himself was constantly in the Scriptures, and showed how they all point to him.

I think the issue that most of us women have is time. We have to make time to turn this into a daily discipline. I say this in encouragement: God knows your season of life right now. He knows how our days seem to move so fast when taking care of little ones. He knows working moms are too exhausted to put their mind into one other thing that day. He knows all of these struggles. I also encourage you to pray that he will show you the time in your day to spend with him. I am currently using the Bible Recap reading plan on the You Version Bible App. It has been very helpful to me because the author also has corresponding daily podcasts with the day's reading. This is beneficial with passages where I get so overwhelmed and confused.

This brings me to my last point. It is so important to start each reading and end each reading with prayer and worship. The producer of the podcast asks, "Where did you see God in your reading today?" Pray that he will reveal himself to you even in the most mundane readings. God can and will speak to you in many ways – including the little ways. I pray that this becomes a desire of your heart. I pray that the women of this church would become so excited and passionate about the Bible. **"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple" Psalms 29:7.**

-Carrie Chapman