

A Firm Grip on the Word

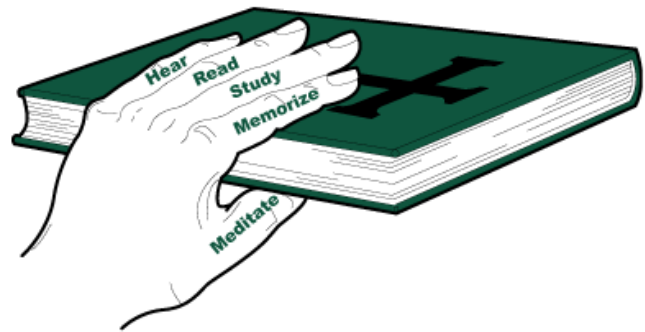
word



THE WORD HAND



Key Idea: The "Word Hand" shows five very important methods of learning from the Bible. Without each of the five "fingers" you cannot develop a firm grip on the Word.



METHOD TO EMPLOY

HEARING

Romans 10:17

Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides insight into others' study of the Scriptures as well as stimulating your own appetite for the Word.

READING

Revelation 1:3

Reading the Bible gives an overall picture of God's Word. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program which takes them systematically through the Bible.

STUDYING

Acts 17:11

Studying the Scriptures leads to personal discoveries of God's truths. Writing down these discoveries helps you organize and remember them.

MEMORIZING

Psalms 119:9, 11

Memorizing God's Word enables use of the Sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations...to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a "word in season."

MEDITATING

Psalms 1:2, 3

Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, for it is used in conjunction with each of the other methods. Only as you meditate on God's Word--thinking of its meaning and application in your life--will you discover its transforming power at work within you.

WHAT IT DEMONSTRATES

TEACHABILITY

Hebrews 13:7

HUNGER/ DESIRE TO PURSUE

1 Peter 2:1-2

DILIGENCE

2 Timothy 2:15

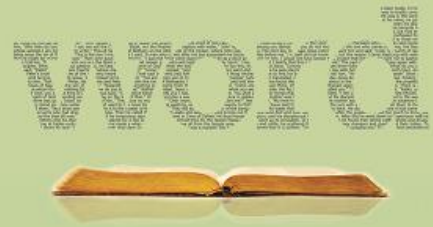
DISCIPLINE

1 Timothy 4:7-8

COMMITMENT

Matthew 7:24-27

A Firm Grip on the Word



Making the Word a Priority in Your Life

Key Idea: In order to experience a growing relationship with God we must spend time in His Word. Therefore, it is foolish to expect a strong relationship with God if we neglect His Word.

Discussion Questions

- *Can we have a strong relationship with God without being in His Word on a regular basis?*
- *According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is Scripture useful for? What will it enable us to do?*

Spending Time Alone in God's Word

Key Idea: Spending time alone with God is something we can all do.

What obstacles prevent us from effectively reading and meditating on God's Word?

Tips for Studying Your Bible

The ultimate goal of all Bible Study is application, which leads us to become more like Jesus.

See James 1: 22

Basic Outline for Spending Time Alone with God

Begin your time alone with God with a brief prayer praising Him (Hebrews 11:6) and seeking His direction (James 1:5).

Spend time meditating on a passage of Scripture (a verse, a paragraph or a chapter).

Ask yourself these Application Questions

Is there any . . .

Sin to confess?

Prayer to pray?

Promise to claim?

Error to avoid?

Attitude to change?

Truth to believe?

Command to obey?

Something to praise God for?

Example to follow?

Spend time in prayer.

(Respond to what you learned. Intercede for others.)