

December 7 Applying / Obeying the Word

John 14:21 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

"The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly." - Søren Kierkegaard

"You may as well quit reading and hearing the Word of God, and give it to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it." - Martin Luther

"Godly character is not the result of good intentions, wishful thinking, some mystical 'zap,' or even sheer Bible knowledge. It's developed through the self-disciplined application of God's Word at a very basic level, enabled and empowered by God's Spirit." - John MacArthur

"The kind of praying that results in God's power demands obedience (Isa. 59:1-2), including reading the Word, praying continually, and rejecting temptation. Perfunctory prayer from disobedient hearts hardly produces new life in a congregation." - Chuck Lawless

"Obedience involves listening attentively with a heart of compliant submission and, then, obeying his word." - Bob Sorge

"Are we obedient to the Word of God? Do we practice obedience as a lifestyle? Obedience gives us assurance of salvation, but it also brings God's blessings on his people. Revivals have always been characterized by obedience because it is proof of genuine conversion and it also brings God's blessing. Are you practicing obedience? Or are you choosing the world and sin over God?" - Gregory Brown

"Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says." - Francis Chan

Lord, as I read and study Your Word, move my heart to be obedient to Your Word. Fill my heart with a love for You and for Your Word that overflows into obedience. Move our church to be obedient so that we can experience new life.

December 8 Learning

Proverbs 1:5 - *A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,*

Ephesians 5:8-10 - *for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

Matthew 11:29 - *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

“To accept the yoke of a disciple of Jesus means to commit to a lifetime of learning about Jesus and from Jesus.” - Donald S. Whitney

“Learning as a discipline means committing to study what Scripture means, what was being conveyed to those for whom it was originally written, what truths it reveals, and the doctrines which emanate from those truths.” - Peter Amsterdam

“...any kind of learning involves preparation and active participation or concentration. Because of this, God is very concerned about HOW we listen and worship. He is concerned about our mental attitudes and our spiritual state when we come to worship or sit down with the Bible either privately or corporately.” - J. Hampton Keathley III

“You don’t have to become a Bible scholar to embrace learning as a Spiritual Discipline. But you do need to spend time learning about God and Scripture and faith. Developing the discipline of learning takes loving God enough to want to learn all we can about Him.” - Peter Amsterdam

“...those who are not exerting themselves to learn the things of God will gain spiritual and biblical knowledge only by accident or mere convenience. By contrast, intentional learners will seek to learn the things of God and will do so individually as well as with the church, disciplining themselves to learn from those who are gifted by God and recognized by the church as teachers.” - Donald S. Whitney

Lord, I love You and want to learn all I can about You. Guide me in my seeking of You. Help me to embrace learning as a spiritual discipline. Help me to have a teachable spirit and to be willing to learn from those who are gifted by You to be teachers in the church. Help me to be disciplined in attending Bible study and church so that I can learn all I can about You. And help me to be disciplined in my own personal study time so that I can go beyond my daily Bible reading and devotional into a deeper walk with You.

December 9 Prayer

Colossians 4:2 - *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;*

Ephesians 6:18 - *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*

Romans 12:10-12 - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,*

“...prayer is essential to Christian living, because it is the key to unlocking the power of the word in our lives.” - John Piper

“Reading the Word and praying are more than just disciplines; they are lifelines to the Father. Knowing that God divides seas, collapses walls, slays giants, and empties tombs strengthens our trust in Him. Talking to Him and recognizing He listens to our prayers magnify our wonder of Him. No task of revitalization is too big for this God.” - Chuck Lawless

“If we were going to be honest . . . , we'd have to admit that prayer is, for the most part, an undisciplined area of our spiritual life. It is sporadic at best, erratic most of the time and often more prosaic than powerful. It is an untapped resource, an unexplored continent where countless treasure remains to be unearthed. It is talked about more than anything else, and practiced less than anything else. And yet, for the believer it remains one of the necessary disciplines we must inculcate in our spiritual lives if we are going to continue to be conformed to the image of Christ.” - Calvin Wittman