**Bible Study & Journaling Instructions for 1 & 2 Peter**

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible or notebook, as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the passage, answer the questions.

Then select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you and caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is **“SOAP”**

**S = Scripture**

**O = Observation**

**A = Application**

**P = Prayer**

Example:

**S:** 1 Peter 1:7 "These trials have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

**O:** Faith is more valuable than gold. Just as the purity of gold is brought forth by intense heat, faith is refined by trials. If faith is genuine it will only grow stronger and purer, as a result of fiery trials. Gold is only temporary. It will be left behind when a believer goes to heaven, but faith lasts forever, and will be rewarded and bring glory to Jesus.

**A:** When God allows me to suffer various trials, He's giving me opportunities to strengthen and purify my faith. If my faith is strong, it will bring Jesus great glory and bring me eternal rewards. When trials come, instead of complaining or asking "why me?" I need to remember that God is building a great treasure in me that will last forever . . .my faith.

**P:** Dear Lord, when you allow me to suffer, please remind me of this truth right away, so I don't waste time complaining and feeling sorry for myself. Help me to focus on You and exercise my faith, relying on You to bring me through the trial victoriously. I trust in Your great love for me and Your promise that I will be rewarded and You will be glorified by genuine, strong faith that has developed and been purified through the trials You bring me through. In Jesus Name, Amen