

# Spiritual Discipline: Bible Intake

March 2015

No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. In order to know God and be godly, we must know the Word of God – intimately. In some ways, North American Christians are spoiled in this area. The Word of God is so available to us that we assume that we know it far better than we actually do. Many of us have more Bibles in our homes than entire churches in some impoverished or isolated parts of the world.

We must come to appreciate the reality that in the Bible:

- the Law of God is given to us and shows us how we've all broken it;
- God reveals to us His will and His ways; and,
- We find how God wants us to live.

None of this eternally essential information can be found anywhere else.

Methods of Bible Intake:

## 1. **Hearing God's Word**

Listening to the Bible read on the radio, a recording, or on most Bible apps, are all excellent and easy ways to hear God's Word. Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." However, we must remember that merely listening to God's Word is not the point. Obeying what we hear is crucial. Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28.

## 2. **Reading God's Word**

A poll by Barna Research, showed that only 18% of "born-again Christians" read their Bible every day, and 23% said they NEVER read the Word of God. If you read the Bible for 15 minutes a day, you could read through the entire Bible in less than a year. Three tips: 1) Find the time, 2) Have a plan, and 3) Find at least one "take-away".

## 3. **Studying God's Word**

The difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible is studying usually involves additional resources (commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc), cross referencing key words, and a system of capturing your thoughts.

## 4. **Memorizing God's Word**

For many people memorizing Scripture seems impossible. But, it just takes a plan and repetition. When Scripture is stored in your mind, it supplies power, strengthens your faith and prepares you for witnessing and counseling.

## 5. **Meditating on God's Word**

Meditation has become more associated with non-Christian practices, but Scripture commands us to fill our minds with God and His truth. Meditation is thinking deeply on the spiritual realities revealed in God's Word.

## 6. **Applying God's Word**

Though some parts of the Bible are hard to understand, the truth is that God made all the things essential for knowing Him abundantly clear. James 1:22-25 promises the blessing of God on those who apply it to their lives.

Throughout the month of March, live out the spiritual discipline of Bible Intake by working through the items below and discussing them with your 222 Group.

- Commit to attend a Small Group at Shindler Drive every Sunday for the next month.
- Answer the following question: "If your growth in godliness were measured by the quality of your Bible Intake, what would be the result?"
- From the list above, what is your preferred method of Bible Intake? Which one is hardest for you? Which one would you like to improve on?
- Go to [ministrygrid.com](http://ministrygrid.com) and in the "Have a Membership Code?" field type in the following code: . If you do not already have a profile, you will be asked to create a free profile. View the online video on Bible Study and discuss with your 222 Group.
- Answer the following question: "What is one thing you can do to improve your intake of God's Word?"