

Spiritual Growth Questions for December 18, 2022

Opener: What has been your experience with Bible reading this week? How much have you read and how has this helped you in your walk with God?

1. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** It says all Scripture is inspired (literally “breathed out”). But why do we believe it is inspired? (Note that “Spirit” means “breath” in Hebrew.)
 - a. **Read Matt. 19:4-6, Acts 4:24-25, Acts 13:34-35, Heb. 1:5-6, and Heb. 7:21.** These verses quote Old Testament passages written by various writers and prophets, but the New Testament attributes the words to God. What does that say about how various New Testament writers, and Jesus Himself, saw the Old Testament?
 - b. But why do we believe the New Testament writers wrote with authority? **Read John 14:25-26, John 16:12-13.** In what way does Jesus give His disciples a supernatural knowledge that would enable them to write under God’s inspiration? **Read Thess. 2:13, 1 Cor. 14:37, and Gal. 1:11-12.** How do the New Testament writers regard their own writings? **Read 2 Peter 3:15-16.** How does Peter regard the writings of Paul? (Also note also that the word “apostle” means “one who is sent”, or “ambassador,” implying that these men carried Jesus’ authority to bring His message into the world.)
2. **Read Psalm 119:103.** God wants us to desire His Word more than we desire any of the pleasures of this earth. How might we live so that this becomes ever truer regarding our lives?
3. **Read John 5:39 and John 1:1.** What is the relationship between Scripture and our Lord Jesus Christ?
4. **Read Romans 10:14-17.** What role does Scripture play in Evangelism?
5. **Ask yourself the following question:** Do I have one hour per week to read Scripture aloud to non-native-English-speaker students?

Yes! **Maybe!** **I’ll pray on it!**

Priorities of Advent Why English Bible Reading? Selected Scriptures December 18, 2022 Pastor David Son

Pastor David Son is an ordained Presbyterian minister from Seoul, South Korea. He has created a ministry called RBMB, Read Bible Mission Bridge. His goal is to encourage and enable people in Korea, throughout Asia, and in Africa, South America, and the Middle East to read the Bible aloud in English. Pastor David believes regular and sustained English Bible reading will deepen readers’ knowledge of God, it will strengthen their faith, and it will lead to their increasing regeneration by the Holy Spirit. English Bible readers may then use their improved English language skills, in person and via the internet, to evangelize to others and to connect with believers and Christian resources across national and cultural boundaries. Pastor David has come to San Francisco today to encourage us all to read the Bible more and to join him in spreading English Bible reading throughout the world to the glory of God.

**Key Questions: What is the Bible’s witness to itself?
How can regular Bible reading transform the hearts of believers?
How does Bible reading enable us to be better witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Introducing Pastor David Son.

Pastor David lives in Seoul, South Korea. He was raised in the Christian faith. His father was a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Baptized at 15 years old, David then studied voice in college and earned a Masters’ Degree in Vocal Music from Keimyong University, a Christian university in Daegu, SK. David performed professionally and also led a church choir for twenty years. At age 42 he attended seminary and became an ordained minister. Pastor David then planted a church in Daegu, his hometown, and led that church for nine years before moving to another church in Seoul, the capital. A few years into his ministry in Seoul, Pastor David found himself one day reading the Bible in English. As he read, he felt the spirit drawing him into ever deeper communion with God’s Word. Thus began a three-year period of intensive daily English Bible reading over the course of which he read the entire Bible thirty times. This experience inspired the English Bible reading ministry that Pastor David has come to tell us about today.

What is the Bible's _____ to itself?

Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Revelation 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword.

What is the _____ of the Word to the reader?

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

Ezra 10:12 The whole assembly responded with a loud voice: "You are right! We must do as you say."

What is the _____ of the Word among the Saints?

Isaiah 55:1-3 Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

Psalm 119:98-100 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

The RBMB Ministry

Enlist native speakers of English to read the Bible aloud online for one hour per week.

Gather students who desire to master spoken English and learn more about God.

Spoken language is acquired through repeated imitation.

Students and readers are likely to be led to repentance and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pronunciation is corrected. Conviction and confidence will be developed.

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