

Why You Need The Bible In Your Life In 2017



Why should we read the Bible every day? Does it make a difference? Is it just something “good Christians” do? Or, worse, is it a legalistic habit that’s unnecessary to a healthy walk with God? If we don’t

understand why it matters, and how it impacts us, we likely won’t make reading our Bibles a priority. Here are five reasons to read your Bible in 2017, followed by 5 ways daily, consistent Bible reading impacts your life. All given at the risk of having a “channel surfing” lesson! (aka “Bible Drill” study)

5 PRACTICAL REASONS to read your Bible in 2017

1. To help us get a grip on our **IDENTITY**.

The only way you can properly understand who you are and **WHY** you were given life and breath is . . . when you locate yourself the narrative of Scripture. It’s only in this story that you learn you were made **BY** God and **FOR** God, that everything you are and have comes from him, and that you were made to live for something and some**ONE** vastly bigger than yourself.

2. To help us **KNOW** & **UNDERSTAND** this world.

God did **NOT** put Adam in the Garden and then tell him, “**You figure this out for yourself!**” You will never know all that you need to know in order to live as you were designed to live by human experience, research, and analysis. God immediately spoke with Adam and Eve after he created them. In the same way, God speaks to us in his Word so that we can know and understand, and in knowing and understanding, live as we were created to live.

3. To **COMFORT** us when our world is crazy.

The world in which you live can be very confusing, distressing, and painful. **But the biblical story comforts us with another reality:** Our world is not out of control. Rather, our world is under the careful personal control of One who is the ultimate

definition of everything that is good, true, wise, and loving. We can rest, not because we understand what's happening, but because we know the One who rules over EVERYTHING, always.

4. To REMIND us of our greatest PROBLEM & the SOLUTION.

This is the ultimate reason for the Word of God. Apart from the Bible, all we know is that something's wrong. Apart from the Bible, we wouldn't know our biggest problem exists inside of us and is called sin. The biblical story chronicles the great things God has done and is doing to rescue, forgive, and deliver us from our sin. The epicenter event of the BIG STORY of the Bible is the Cross of Jesus Christ, delivering to us the one thing that we desperately need but cannot achieve on our own – forgiveness and a new life.

5. To give us HOPE, no matter what happens.

The biblical story, because it is a story, has a final chapter. One day, the sickness, sadness, and sin of this broken world will end. We will with God forever, in a world where everything wrong is made right. The Author of this Book has guaranteed the end of the story by raising Jesus from the dead. No matter what happens, we have hope, because we know the final page has already been penned.

So as you begin 2017, don't be driven by a duty-bound checklist or reading plan. Employ one as a helpful tool, but be inspired to read the Bible as a story.

This story has one central character: God himself, specifically in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. From cover to cover, the Bible is a narrative of his wondrous works and the blessings that are yours by grace.

This old, old story imparts identity, understanding, comfort, salvation, and hope. Has it become your favorite story to read everyday?

5 WAYS daily, consistent Bible reading impacts your life.

1. The analogy of A HOUSE. (Getting to Know God)

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Visiting my home would tell you a lot about me. The guitars, the CD boxes, the books, the 3 dogs . . . you draw conclusions!

Reading the Bible is like stepping into God's house. Everything is there because He desires for it to be there. If it is in the Word of God, which lasts forever, then it must be important to Him. As I read Leviticus, I am confronted with the reality that there is a whole book dedicated to different types of sin and their corresponding offerings. If it was important to God for this to be in His Word, I must conclude that our sin really, really, really bothers Him and that all sin, no matter how small, must be paid for.

The passages in the Bible that are the most confusing? Well, instead of skipping or avoiding things you don't understand, ask God why that particular passage is important to Him. Ask what it tells you about His character. Grow to love Him for who He is, not who you want Him to be.

2. The analogy of an ANCHOR. (stability & being grounded)

Hebrews 6:19; Romans 12:2

Have you ever played in the ocean at waist level? It's amazing how you can be convinced that you've been standing in one place, yet turning to see your umbrella a quarter mile away will quickly prove your error. The current was so subtle you weren't even aware you were drifting. This is what it's like living in a fallen world. We're caught up in a current. Materialism, selfishness, immorality, mindless entertainment daily nudge us away from God. Add our self-centered flesh + our enemy, Satan, and there's a lot of strength to that current.

The Word of God is like an anchor. Each time you read it, you are putting your anchor in the ground and holding on. The anchor of God's Word keeps you from drifting. But without daily grabbing on to this anchor, you may be miles away before you realize what happened. This is why frequent study and meditation of the Word of God is crucial. As [Romans 12:2](#) says, we should daily "be transformed by the renewal" of our minds through His Word.

3. The analogy of GLASSES. (seeing my life situation clearly)

*James 1:22-15; Psalm 119:8; *99*

The first thing I reach for in the morning is . . . my glasses, because they help me do everything. To look at a room through blurred vision is confusing. Is that an apple or tomato? Is she angry or happy? Putting my glasses on is a simple step that helps me correctly respond to things that come my way because I can accurately see what they are.

Without a consistent dose of the Word, a stressful situation can feel confusing and overwhelming (in other words, blurry). Why am I frustrated? Am I angry at my children, or am I taking other worries out on them? But when I have a steady dose of truth in my life, I can quickly perceive my circumstances and my heart's responses. Like putting on glasses, it brings clarity, helping me accurately discern the events of the day and my own responses. When my anger is related to self-sufficiency (assuming my life holds together by my own effort), I can repent and relinquish control to God again.

Ironically, many people say they don't have time for studying the Word. But I would argue there's nothing that saves you more time than reading the Word and praying. This time grants fresh vision for what truly matters in each day, what you can let go of, and helps you quickly and accurately assess unexpected situations.

4. The analogy of strong **MEDICINE**. (preventative & curative)

Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 55:11; Romans 10:14

Imagine what you would rather not imagine . . . Imagine you have a terminal disease and doctors suggested it can be cured through regular medical treatments. You begin your treatment, but do not feel different after the first treatment. Or the second. Or even after the third. So why keep going? Just because you don't feel anything doesn't mean it's not working. Over time, this medicine will slowly kill off the sickness in you.

This is what a steady intake of the Word of God is like. When read as an act of faith in Christ, it slowly cures our pride, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our apathy. Reading the Word of God is often enjoyable. But other times, you will close your Bible feeling the same as when you sat down. This doesn't mean your time wasn't effective! Every time the Word enters our mind, it is accomplishing something. God assures us, **"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"** ([Isa. 55:11](#)).

A regular, steady, and substantial diet of the Word of God kills the pride in our hearts that leads to all other sin. Be committed no matter how you feel.

5. The analogy of a relational **VOCABULARY**. (Fuel for a Living Relationship)

Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35

Anyone learning a second language knows this . . . vocab is key. Sure, you can learn every verb and all the tenses. But once you hit the streets in a foreign country, verbs alone can't help you find a bathroom or get a cab. You need vocabulary! The more words you know, the more conversation you can have.

The Bible is vocabulary in our relationship with God. We don't read the Bible just to read our Bibles. We read with the goal to commune with God. It's His Word! So, you may ask, why spend the effort? Yes, our God is bigger than the pages of the Bible ([John 5:39](#)). He can meet us anywhere, and can speak to us in many ways. But He is very clear that He does not change and that His Word is eternal ([Isa. 40:8](#); [Mal. 3:6](#)). This means that without a rich vocabulary of God's Word, our interaction with Him is limited.

As I grow in knowledge of the Bible, I quickly recognize His voice in my day-to-day life. Sometimes circumstances will remind me of a passage I read. As I consider how to respond to someone, a story from the Old Testament will come into view. The more I read, the more living and active my relationship with God becomes. I am learning His

language and engaging with Him better every day. Isn't this what we all long for? A living, breathing, tangible relationship with the eternal and living God?

I hope these analogies encourage you and create desire in you to get into the Word!

Which one of these pictures speaks to you the most?