

Part 5: How to Study the Bible for All It's Worth

REVIEW

Priority #1 Discover the Original Intended Meaning of the Text

Priority #2: Discover the Meaning of the Text Today

Priority #3: Discover the Personal Life application

Step 1: PRAY

Step 2: REVIEW the Basics

Step 3: READ the text over & over

Step 4: RECORD Your Observations

Step 5: RESEARCH Your Observations

Step 6: REFLECT & write down original intended meaning

Step 7: DISCOVER the meaning of the text for today

Step 8: MEDITATE on the text & findings

Step 9: DISCOVER the personal life application

James 5:13-16: 1 Week of Bible Study & Application

10 minutes per day for 6 days

Step #1: PRAY “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” Psalm 119:18

Step #2 Review the Basics

JAMES

- New Testament/New Covenant
- General Letters
- Author: James, half brother of Jesus, leader in the Jerusalem church
- Date: 44-48AD
- Recipients: Jewish Christians
- Purpose: To provide practical instruction on living the Christian life
- Focus: An active faith in daily life

Important Features

1. Assumed readers are genuine Christians (sanctification not salvation)
2. 54 commands in 108 verses
3. Wisdom literature with practical focus
4. Universal letter to genuine Christians
5. Practical not doctrinal focus

Good works cannot produce saving faith
Saving faith must produce good works

Step # 3 Read the Text Over & Over again
Read James 5:13-18; then read James 5:13-16 (3X)

Step #4 Record Your Observations
Step 5: Research Your Observations

Overall

- every verse contains a reference to prayer
- concluding section is focused on prayer
- active living faith centers around prayer
- “his knees became as hard as a camel's”

v. 13

v.14

v.15

v.16

Step #6: Reflect & write down original intended meaning
Prayer was to be an essential part of the successful Christian life. Therefore, the early Christians were to humbly turn to God in prayer by faith in all circumstances knowing that God answers prayer and God produces amazing results when Christians pray.

Step #7: Discover the meaning of the text today
Prayer is an essential part of the successful Christian life today. Therefore, Christians today are to humbly turn to God in prayer by faith in all circumstances knowing that God answers prayer and God produces amazing results when Christians pray.

Step #8: Meditate upon the Text & Findings

Step #9: Discover the Personal Life Application of the text

Application: PROBE It! (S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S.)

Is there SIN to confess? Is there a PROMISE to claim? Is there an ATTITUDE to change? Is there a COMMAND to obey? Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?

Is there a PRAYER to pray? Is there an ERROR to avoid? Is there a TRUTH to believe? Is there SOMETHING to praise God for?

Personal Life Application: If I am ever to be the Christian man God desires I must consistently humbly turn to God in prayer. Whether I am content, upset, happy or sad I must connect with God in prayer knowing that God is at work in my life producing amazing results.

ACTION STEP I commit to turn to God in prayer throughout the day—praising, thanking and petitioning Him. Every time I look at my watch, cell phone or seek to find out the time, it's an indicator that it's time to pray.