



Introduction

They called them the '49ers. Men from every walk of life and every part of the world were enticed. They left everything. They braved harsh winters, burning deserts and stormy seas to venture to the wilderness that was California. They heard there was treasure buried in the hills, free to anyone who found it. They endured great discomfort for the opportunity to "strike it rich". Sadly, most of them came away with nothing to show for their effort.

God's Word claims that there is treasure buried within its pages. Free to anyone who will search for it. This treasure is not measured as money. It's better than anything money can buy. And the promise of finding the reward is sure to those who will search.

This study will help you understand how to find the treasure hidden in God's Word.

Whose Word is it?

In the following verses, circle the person prompting the words that were recorded.

¹² Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. ¹³ He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets.

Deuteronomy 4:12-13

These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah:

Jeremiah 30:4

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon me, and he told me to say: "This is what the LORD says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but I know what is going through your mind.

Ezekiel 11:5

Over and over, the authors of the books of the Bible attribute their words to the Lord.

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

- In verse 20, circle the one who's interpretation is not the source of Scripture.
- In verse 21, underline the source that is never the origin for prophecy.
- In verse 21, circle the one whose words were spoken by men.
- In verse 21, Frame the one who carries along the Words of God

The Bible

The Bible is an amazing book. It has 40 different authors. Its 66 books were written over 1600 years. Yet, it has one theme from front to back – God loves us so much that He sent His son, the Messiah, to die for us.

Originally written in just three languages, the Bible is the most translated book ever written. Men have given their lives to protect it. Forces of evil have failed to destroy it. It has been preserved so that you might be able to place your faith in its wonderful message of hope.

Did you know?

- There are over 3800 references in the Old Testament indicating that the source of the words was God.
- Scribes carefully copied scripture. They counted every letter of every book to make certain they did not leave anything out.
- Scripture was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

The Power of God's Word

When Paul was describing the Christian's armor he listed five articles designed for defense and one article for offense.

*¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the **belt** of truth buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate** of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your **feet** fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the **helmet** of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Ephesians 6:12-18

- Circle the one article of the Christian's armor that is a weapon of attack.
- In what way is God's Word like a sword?

The author of Hebrews had a similar view of God's Word.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

- Circle each word that describes a characteristic of God's Word.
- Underline the ways that it is able to penetrate within a person
- Underline two elements of the heart which the Word of God judges.
- *God's word has an ability to penetrate body, soul and spirit to get to the heart. It is a powerful tool in the hands of a skilled workman.*

Paul explained to Timothy the reason for the unique power of God's Word:

*¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for
teaching,
rebuking,
correcting and
training in righteousness,
¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- In verse 16, circle the method God used to convey scripture to us.
- "God-breathed" is translated by the Greek word **theopneustos**. Other translations use the term "inspired by God" instead of God breathed. But the two components of the word, **Theo**, meaning God, and **pneustos**, meaning breath, combine for a very literal God-breathed. It is a picture of the words coming from the innermost part of God, his very breath.
- In verse 17, underline the result of God's Word in a willing persons life.
- Circle the word describing how such a person will be equipped.
- If someone wanted to do good things with their life, what tool would be useful for preparing them for their work?

We'll spend much more time talking about the armor of God in the **vDRC** Study, Surviving Spiritual Warfare, Study Number 8 in the Basics Series.



Christians believe that the Bible is inspired in the **original language** in which it was written. Therefore, when different English translations use different words in the same verse, it does not mean that there are contradictions in the Bible. Rather, it means that the word being translated has more than one possible translation. It is the original word that is inspired, not necessarily the translation.

Translators will often explain their purpose and translation style in the introduction to the Bible.

Getting God's Word into your Life

God's Word is powerful. It is able to thoroughly equip you for every good work. Therefore, getting God's Word into your mind will have a wonderful effect. The rest of this study focuses on practical ways in which you can get God's Word into your heart and mind.

Hearing God's Word

Hearing God's Word is one of the easiest ways to get it into your mind. Jesus taught that hearing was important.

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Luke 11:28

- Circle the result of hearing God's word.
- Underline the action to be taken after you hear.

While hearing is an easy way to begin getting God's Word into your heart, it is not the most effective way. Analysts claim that most people only recall 5% of a message they heard after 24 hours. Hearing is good, but there are more effective methods of intake.

Reading God's Word

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

- Circle the result of reading the words of the prophecy.
- After reading and hearing, underline the action to be taken.

Analysts claim that after 24 hours most people will remember 15% of the material they read. So reading is beneficial, but there are other more effective ways to get God's word into your life.

Studying God's Word

Studying is a much more deliberate approach to God's Word than hearing or reading.

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel. (NASV)

Ezra 7:10

- Underline the activity on which Ezra had set his heart.
- Circle the two activities that followed the study of the law.
- *The progression is always the same for you and me:*
 1. *Set my heart*
 2. *Study*
 3. *Practice and apply what I learn*
 4. *Teach others*

The Navigators have developed an illustration they call the Hand Illustration. It brings together the five methods of intake discussed in this study. You can find their illustration on the Navigator web site, <http://home.navigators.org/us>

Hearing and reading were greatly used during Nehemiah's days. Read the events recorded in Nehemiah 8:1-18. The key to the revival was the reading of the word of God to the listening people.

Study...

The normal tools of study include the Bible, a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Study involves analysis of words so that the meaning of the scripture can be fully understood.

You can find some guidelines for studying God's Word in the Tools section of the vDRC web site.

Paul encountered many responses to the message of the Gospel. He took particular note of the response of the people of Berea.

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11

- Underline the way the Bereans researched the message they received.
- Circle the motive behind the Bereans' examination of the Scriptures.
- *Do you think it is important to examine the scripture behind a message you hear? Why or Why not?*

People will remember about 35% of material they study after 24 hours. There is an even more effective method you can use to get God's Word into your life.

Memorize God's Word

Scripture often refers to the heart as being a storage place. When the Bible uses the word "heart" in this way, it is speaking about our mind. It is directing us to place Scripture in our mind in such a way that it will not fade from memory.

⁹ *How can a young man keep his way pure?*

By living according to your word.

¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*

Psalms 119:9,11

- Underline from verse 9 the way a person can keep their way pure.
- Underline the action in verse 11 that helped keep sin from occurring.
- Circle the place where the word was hidden.
- *The benefit of having God's Word in your heart is that when you are tempted, you have a ready defense within you.*

¹ *My son, keep my words*

and store up my commands within you.

² *Keep my commands and you will live;
guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.*

³ *Bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.*

Proverbs 7:1-3

- Circle in verse 1 the place where commandments are to be stored.
- Underline in verse 2 the results of keeping the commands.
- Underline in verse 3 the place where the commands were to be written.
- *The only way to "write on your heart" is to memorize.*

Jesus memorized Scripture

Matthew 4:1-10

Jesus responded to each temptation of Satan in the desert with a passage of Scripture. It is obvious that Jesus did not have anything written with him except that which was hidden in His heart.



Need help memorizing?

Many people think they just cannot memorize scripture. Actually most people can remember a vast amount of information. All you need is a few helpful suggestions to make Scripture a permanent part of your heart.

The tools section of vDRC contains some suggestions on how to make Scripture Memory work for you.

Meditate on God's Word

Meditation is the final method to be used in getting God's Word into your life. But this tool can be used with hearing, reading, studying or memorizing. In fact, meditation is the key that makes the other four techniques of input effective.

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.

Joshua 1:8

- Underline the frequency with which one should meditate.
- Circle what we should be careful to do.
- Circle the two results of meditation with careful obedience.

Notice the progression of events:

1. Speaking the word (not depart out of your mouth)
2. Meditation on the word (day and night)
3. Carefully do what it says. (Application)
4. Prosperity and Success (The byproduct of doing what is right)

So the intent of meditation is to lead us into right actions. And right actions will result in prosperity and success.

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

³ *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.*

Psalms 1:2-3

- Underline the frequency with which one should meditate in verse 2.
- Circle in verse 3 what one who meditates is like.
- *In the life of a tree, bearing fruit and un-withered leaves is a sign of vigorous health. One who meditates will be like such a tree.*

Notice that the results of mediation in both Joshua 1:8 and Psalms 1:2-3 are the same: Prosperity and success.

Application

- On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low) how much value do you currently place upon God's Word in your life?
- On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low) how much value would you like to place upon God's Word in your life?

What is keeping you from letting God's Word have a bigger time slot in your life?

What do you need to change?



What is Meditation?

Meditation as described in the Bible is very different than that practiced by Buddhists and Eastern Religious persons. That meditation consists of clearing your mind of any thought.

Meditation in Scripture involves pondering and thinking through the implications of Scripture. It requires filling the mind with thoughts.



An English synonym for the word "meditate" is **ruminate**. Cows ruminate when they chew their cud. They

first graze the land and swallow their food. Then, they will bring up some partially digested food into their mouth and chew on it some more. This process of swallowing and then bringing it up to chew on is called rumination.

Meditation is like rumination. But instead of chewing on food, we "chew" on ideas and concepts in God's Word. The process of thinking and considering is essential to the Word taking root in our lives.

Need help Meditating?

The tools section of vDRC contains some suggestions on how to meditate.