

## **Stay Under the Weight of God's Word, Part II**

Because the discipline of bible reading is part of what it means to be Jesus' disciple, it's impossible to deepen your relationship with Him if there is not a regular investment of time. Similarly, discipleship demands non-selective hearing from Jesus. Selective hearing, also known as *disobedience*, is banned in Christ's Kingdom. Disciples must always be dialed in to the voice of our Lord. I've never audibly heard His voice with my ears, but the risen Christ does speak: *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17)*. He speaks via the Scriptures. Your love for the Lord is expressed in how you listen to the Lord. Your view of Jesus is revealed in how you hear Him. Do you find yourself reading the Bible and thinking, *"Well, that's not what He really meant,"* or, *"That's just asking too much,"* or, *"I can't do that"?* If we find ourselves tweaking and diluting the Bible to fit comfortably around our desires, hunches, sins, and idols, the Apostle John warns us: maybe we don't know Jesus after all (*see 1 John 2:3-6*). Every time we spend time in God's Word, we are positioning ourselves to hear from Christ.

II Timothy 3:16 tells us that *"All Scripture is inspired by God (literally, God-breathed) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."* It's impossible to believe wrong concepts about the Lord Jesus & be in a healthy relationship with God. Here are 4 tangible benefits to regularly reading God's word:

- 1. It's profitable for teaching:** The mind regularly saturated with God-breathed instruction grants one wisdom, as God defines wise.
- 2. It's profitable for reproof:** The mind regularly saturated with God-breathed instruction grows to understand those things in our lives which are displeasing to God, as well as strengthening us to refute error.
- 3. It's profitable for correction:** The mind regularly saturated with God-breathed instruction not only recognizes what is wrong (reproof), but also sets forth the way in which it can be made right (correction).
- 4. It's profitable for training in righteousness:** The mind regularly saturated with God-breathed instruction equips us to dwell in the place of God's approval.

**P2R (Point 2 Remember):** *The single biggest influence on your spiritual growth is consistently taking time to soak in the Scriptures.* Two practical ways to do this are:

- 1) You **MUST** have a Bible reading plan - *The #1 reason people don't spend time in God's word as much as they'd like is because it doesn't get prioritized.*
- 2) Use an Audio Bible - *I have 2 I like to use. One is from "Faith Comes by Hearing" ([faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://faithcomesbyhearing.com)) & the other is the "Streetlights Audio Bible" ([streetlightsbible.com](http://streetlightsbible.com))*