

## C.H. Spurgeon's 7 Tips for Reading the Bible

Charles Spurgeon was a man who LOVED the Scriptures...

- He felt that it was precious food for his soul.
- He had a great memory of Scripture as well.
- And he has 7 practical suggestions for us to deepen our Bible enjoyment.

### **1) Read & Depend**

“Look up, reader! The next time the book is in your hands, look up before you open it—and while your eyes are running down the page, look up and ask that God would shine upon it!”— C.H. Spurgeon

- Too many of us Open our Bibles - Read the text - and close our Bibles and go on with our day!

(john 14.26) 26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- Let's depend on the Holy Spirit to illuminate us.

### **2) Read & Meditate**

“For lack of meditation, the truth of God runs by us and we miss and lose it.”— C.H. Spurgeon

- King David was a great example of this point.
- He would often strengthen himself in the LORD.
- That is done when we chew on and meditate on His Word.

(ps. 119.15) 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

### **3) Read & Apply**

“Do with the Bible as the sick man does with the doctor's prescription—follow it by personally doing what it bids you.”— C.H. Spurgeon

We are encouraged by James...

(james 1.22) 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- If we don't understand the Words we have read, then it's impossible to apply them into our lives and obey God's Word.

Key Point: Transformation takes place when we apply God's Word to our lives.

### **4) Read & Practice**

“The world will learn better and will more likely be brought to know Christ when the lives of Christians are better, and when the Bible of the Christian life shall be more in accordance with the Bible of Christian doctrine!”— C.H. Spurgeon

In our private time with the Lord...

- We listen for His voice and apply what we have read.
- Next we need to look for ways to PRACTICE publicly what we have read.

(matt. 5.14-16) 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## 5) Read & Pray

“A text is like a treasure chest which is locked—and prayer is the key to open it—and then we get God’s treasure!”– C.H. Spurgeon

- This is something that I didn’t practice for the first 20 years of my Christian life!
- I separated my Bible reading and my prayer time.

Instead...

- We need to use what we have just read as a “conversation starter” to prayer.
- God has spoken to us through His Word...
- And He is waiting for us to respond to Him in prayer about the very things He has illuminated to our hearts and minds.

## 6) Read & Try

“If you even have a doctrine of God in your mind, find out the text or texts which prove it! If there should happen to be other texts which seem to point the other way, do not cut and pare any of them down, but accept all and wait until the Spirit reveals wherein they really agree! Scripture is not to fit your opinions, but your opinions to conform to the blessed word!”– C.H. Spurgeon

All of us are influenced...

- By our culture and by our personal experiences.
- What makes a Christian very different from all other people in the world is...
- They EXAMINE both their personal beliefs - as well as what their cultural beliefs - in light of Scripture. (What the Bible says)

Key Point: Our worldview and our values should be fully consistent with God’s Word.

(rom. 12.1-2) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## 7) Read & Tell Out

“When you read a passage of Scripture and have any enjoyment therein, go to your sick neighbor and tell what God has said to you.” – C.H. Spurgeon

Be generous with what God has spoken to you!

- Give out what you have been given.
- If God has encouraged you with a verse from the Bible...
- Look for someone to encourage with that same verse in your daily path.
- Share God’s Word with others.
- Bless them and honor God.
- This will also help you to REMEMBER what God has shared with you.
- Discuss God’s Word with a friend or family member.

You can read Spurgeon’s entire sermon at: <https://www.spurgeongems.org/vols58-60/chs3318.pdf>

“Word of God Speak” - Bible Reading Plan

<http://communityofhope.church/next-steps/bible-reading-plan/>

- We are doing the “Short Plan” I can’t wait to begin our Journey together in 2018 !