



New Creation (6)  
5 Ways to Approach  
God's Word

Psalm 19:8-11

# #1 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

There are 5 practical ways to approach the Bible through which we can know God's will more effectively through the Bible.

## 1. READING

The first is to read the Bible. It is the most basic thing to do. There are 66 books in the Bible through which God reveals who He is and what He does to save us.



The process of reading the Bible doesn't require us to think deeply about the chapters or verses we're reading.

The purpose of reading the Bible is like **seeing a forest** from a distance. By reading the entire Bible **we see the big picture of God's salvation** revealed from the beginning to the end.



It allows us to see the overall framework of the Bible so that we can understand specific chapters or verses more.

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture...” (1Tm 4:13)

# #2 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

## 2. MEDITATING

We need to think more deeply about what God is saying to us through the verses we're reading. That's what biblical meditation is.

Biblical meditation is thinking deeply about the words of Scripture with a receptive heart, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us to the truth.

It's essentially **an act of "reflecting."**



The purpose of meditating on it is to build a relationship with God by thinking more deeply about His words and hearing His voice through them.

**"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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" (Jos 1:8)

The more we hear God's voice through this process of meditation, the more His will fills our lives and changes us.

# #3 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

## 2. MEDITATING

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.” (Ps 1:1-3)

Here, those who meditate on God’s word are portrayed as trees planted by streams of water.



The streams of water are used as a metaphor for **the Holy Spirit**. And the leaf refers to our **relationship with God**. That’s what we should be really interested in.

Our first interest shouldn’t be fruit because we can’t bear good fruit on our own. What we should focus on is the **condition of our leaves**. If it’s not withered, we’ll naturally produce good fruit. But if it’s withered because we neglect it, we will never bear good fruit.

# #4 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

## 3. MEMORIZING

The third way to approach the Bible is to memorize verses.

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...” (Dt 11:18)



“Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life...” (Pr 6:21-23)

The benefit of memorizing verses is that we can recall and think about them at any time.

When we face times where we're so tired and frustrated that we don't even have the energy to open the Bible, we'll experience God strengthening us and speaking to us through the verses that we've memorized. When we meet someone who needs help and encouragement, God can use those verses to comfort them.

# #5 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

## 4. LISTENING

The fourth way to approach God's word is to listen to it.

“Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message**, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” (Rm 10:17)

Paul presents hearing the message of God as the first step of having faith in God. The gospel of Jesus Christ has been delivered through generations and passed down to us through His sincere servants. We've heard the message of God and have come to have faith in Jesus.

However, that doesn't simply mean listening to sermons at church on Sundays. We're to be able to **listen to God's voice** speaking into our hearts.

“**My sheep listen to my voice**; I know them, and they follow me.” (Jn 10:27)



When we try to listen attentively to Jesus' voice, it will fill our hearts and we will no longer pay attention to worldly voices, but will follow Him.

# #6 5 Ways to Approach the Bible

## 5. STUDYING

The last way to approach God's word is to study it.

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the message with great eagerness** and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. **As a result, many of them believed**, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.” (Ac 17:11-12)

We're living in a flood of information. But we need to be careful when choosing what to listen to because there are still false teachings.

We need to have **spiritual discernment to distinguish** right from wrong and we can have that discernment by studying God's word more deeply.



“**Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly**... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:16-17)

## Memory Verses

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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” (Jos 1:8) (2)

“Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.” (Pr 6:21–22) (2)

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” (Rm 10:17) (1)

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:16–17) (2)



## Questions

1) What are the five ways to approach the Bible? Among them, which do you think you do the most? The least? Why?

2) Among the five ways, which do you want to focus on more this year? How will you do that and what do you want to achieve from it?