

BIBLE
AUTHORITY
How Established,
How Applied

by Frank Jamerson

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Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.

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Principles of Bible Study

Lesson 1

The first lesson will be a study of how to learn. These principles are true of Bible study as well as any other subjects.

A. Motivation:

1. It is difficult to study when you see no purpose for learning the information.
2. Ezra understood the importance of motivation, Ezra 7:10.
3. Some false motives:
 - a. Do not want the truth, Matthew 13:14, 15; 2 Corinthians 4:2-4.
 - b. Want to believe or defend error, 2 Timothy 4:1-4.
 - c. Want to follow men because we like them, 1 Corinthians 4:1-6.
4. Some good motives:
 - a. Love for God's word, Psalm 119:1-9, 97-104.
 - b. Desire to make personal application, Ezra 7:10; John 8:47-52; James 1:22-25.
 - c. Desire to teach others, Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 5:12.
 - d. Desire to defend what you believe, 1 Peter 3:15.

B. Reaction:

1. A reaction is a response to a stimulus. (If you are stuck with a pin, you react!)
2. We do not learn simply by letting information pass through the mind. Our minds must be active - thinking of the connection with other truths, how it applies to our own lives or to what others believe or practice, Acts 2:37; 7:54.

C. Concentration:

1. Some do not know how to concentrate (focus the mind).
2. Proper motivation as well as physical surroundings are important, Psalm 1:1-2.
3. Plan a certain time for Bible study (about 30 minutes is a good length of time).

The Basis for Obedience

D. Organization:

1. It helps to see the overall picture of what you are studying.
2. Learn to scan the highlights of a book or chapter; listen for the main points of a sermon. (Look at Stephen's sermon in Acts 7 for an overview of Jewish history.)
3. This quarter - learn the books of the Bible by organizing and memorizing books and learning the main lessons in each section of Scripture.

E. Comprehension:

1. When you understand what you are hearing or reading, you can express it in your own words. (Repeating the words of others does not mean that you understand.)
2. Notice the question Philip asked the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-31.
3. As you study, make notes, highlight, outline, or summarize what you are studying.
4. Discussing it with others is very helpful in getting the proper understanding.

F. Repetition:

1. Time should be spent in review. If you do not use it, you lose it!
2. God gave us four accounts of the life of Christ. (Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic.)
3. We need to be reminded of things we have heard before, Philippians 3:1; 2 Peter 3:1.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Ezra want to learn God's word?

2. Give three motives that keep people from learning the truth.

Studying Bible Authority...

3. List some good motivations for study of God's word.

4. Give two reactions people may have toward the truth.

5. What are some things that help you concentrate?

6. Who are the men Stephen mentioned in his sermon?

7. What did Philip ask the Ethiopian when he heard him reading?

8. What are some things that help you comprehend what you are hearing or reading?

9. List the four divisions of the Old and New Testament books.

10. Learn, in order, the six principles of learning. (Organize them by making an anagram with the first letter in each word - Mr. Cocr.)

Acknowledgement: The basic points in this lesson were taken from "How to Study the Bible," by Earl H. West.
