

EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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More thought should be given to the things of God, and less to temporal matters. The world-loving professor, if he will exercise his mind in that direction, may become as familiar with the word of God as he now is with worldly business. "Search the Scriptures," said Christ; "for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me." **The Christian is required to be diligent in searching the Scriptures, to read over and over again the truths of God's word.** Willful ignorance on this subject endangers the Christian life and character. It blinds the understanding and corrupts the noblest powers. It is this that brings confusion into our lives. Our people need to understand the oracles of God; they need to have a systematic knowledge of the principles of revealed truth, which will fit them for what is coming upon the earth and prevent them from being carried about by every wind of doctrine. {5T 273.2}

King James Version

- This is the only reliable protestant Bible in the English language, commonly sold
- KJV is consistent in its usage of words/language from Hebrew to English and Greek to English, this is critical in allowing the Bible to interpret itself when using a good reference column Bible(World Bible Publishing) or concordance
- If you use a Bible in another language make sure it is translated from the *Textus Receptus* Greek manuscript, not the Vaticanus & Sinaticus(Hort/Westcott) manuscripts these have many errors
- If you are translating a Bible into another language use the Textus Receptus because it doesn't contradict the established biblical doctrines that are the foundation of faith in the Jesus is Lord and the foundational doctrines of Adventism
- KJV does not contradict itself, in doctrine
- These features are important for Contextual studying or Word studies which allow the Bible to define itself by comparing verse with verse
- The Spirit of Prophecy eliminates the need for modern Bible versions, because it explains clearly the KJV
- Modern Bible translations(Versions using the Vaticanus/Sinaticus or Hort/Westcott, published since 1881) manuscript will confuse your theology and weaken your spiritual walk because they contain contradictory and false doctrine

The purpose of this plan:

The Bible was not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday; and none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God. {SC 89.2}

We should not take the testimony of any man as to what the Scriptures teach, but should study the words of God for ourselves. If we allow others to do our thinking, we shall have crippled energies and contracted abilities. The noble powers of the mind may be so dwarfed by lack of exercise on themes worthy of their concentration as to lose their ability to grasp the deep meaning of the word of God. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, **comparing scripture with scripture and spiritual things with spiritual**. {SC 89.3}

There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times. {SC 90.1}

But there is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through and **yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning**. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in the mind. {SC 90.2}

We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. Some portions of Scripture are indeed too plain to be misunderstood, but there are others whose meaning does not lie on the surface to be seen at a glance. **Scripture must be compared with scripture**. There must be careful research and prayerful reflection. And such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the word of God as for hid treasure find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life. {SC 90.3}

The Holy Spirit(SOP is inspired by the Holy Spirit) exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is His office to present Christ, the purity of His righteousness, and the great salvation that we have through Him. Jesus says, "He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:14. The Spirit of truth is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. **How must God esteem the human race, since He gave His Son to die for them and appoints His Spirit to be man's teacher and continual guide!** {SC 91.2}

Personal Morning Bible Study (**This is the foundation of this plan follow this portion if nothing else**)

“And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.” Exodus 16:21

- The Lord has shown us from the example of the manna that the best time to study is in the morning, this is the most consistent, because the rest of the day we are changing locations and have varying schedules.
- For your set morning study use the SOP books that focus on Bible commentary(p.5)or have plenty of scripture listed, wherever a scripture is given, read at least 5 verses before the scripture and 5 verses after the scripture, even better read the whole chapter. Look up every verse, every time. This will provide you with a deep, thorough, strengthening method of study. In 2 weeks you will see a significant difference, in 3 months a big difference and in 9 months, 10 fold growth. Many people read the scripture but don't understand much, this will provide you with understanding and a systematic/thematic study.
- Pick the one or two items that are impressed most upon your mind and put them to use IMMEDIATELY in your life, LIVE IT or you will forget it and or lose it
- What ever you learn begin to go out and share/teach it to someone and you will learn more and solidify what you have.

The truths that are hidden from the wise and prudent are revealed to babes. The beauty and preciousness of truth, which are undiscerned by the worldly-wise, are constantly unfolding to those who have a trusting, childlike desire to know and to do the will of God. We discern the truth by becoming, ourselves, partakers of the divine nature. {MB 26.4}

Disobedience has closed the door to a vast amount of knowledge that might have been gained from the Scriptures. Understanding means obedience to God's commandments. The Scriptures are not to be adapted to meet the prejudice and jealousy of men. **They can be understood only by those who are humbly seeking for a knowledge of the truth that they may obey it.** {COL 112.2}

Do you ask, **What shall I do to be saved?** You must lay your preconceived opinions, your hereditary and cultivated ideas, at the door of investigation. **If you search the Scriptures to vindicate your own opinions, you will never reach the truth.** Search in order to learn what the Lord says. If conviction comes as you search, if you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the truth, do not misinterpret the truth in order to suit your own belief, but **accept the light given.** Open mind and heart that you may behold wondrous things out of God's word. {COL 112.3}

Sanctification(Conversion/Victory) is shown in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary

Table of Shewbread - Bible Study

Candlestick – Witnessing

Altar of Incense – Pray

This is your daily walk with the Lord. When one of these is not in place we are no longer abiding in Christ. This is the model to maintain the experience of sanctification.

When a verse is not clear use your reference column and look up the theme/thought/word following the referenced verses around the Bible until you come back to the same verse or exhaust the subject.

Alternative Study & Preparation Method

As mentioned above the Reference Column is a very beneficial and necessary tool. I have found the World Publishing Bible reference column the best when comparing other Bibles. It has more references and is surgically precision where it can be with a word or theme. This method is most beneficial when: 1) preparing a study on a single book of the Bible, 2) doing a thematic(specific) topic study, 3) understanding how related verses and themes go together, 4) it shows how the Bible explains the Bible 5) It is another method of allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you.

To explain this method if you are wanting to study the book of I John, for example:

1. First read the entire book to understand overall context
2. Starting with Chapter 1, you will notice a small “r” next to certain words or phrases. The small “r” indicates that the compilers have additional Bible texts you can look up to help with understanding the verse you are currently reading, the referenced “r” could be word specific or theme specific. This you will see as you follow the “r”s around the Bible.
3. Look up every verse listed in the reference column making special note of its location to see the theme you are following.
4. Follow the “r”s around the Bible until the theme is no longer pertinent to the specific verse, context or theme you are studying. This is what I call “chasing/following the reference.”
5. Write down the additional verses that you find as not to forget them, that help to explain the book or theme better that you are studying then add them into your presentation at the appropriate verse as you move verse by verse through the study.
6. In the World Publishing Bible the reference column for Chapter 1 of I John has: 29 additional texts you can look up from 18 “r”s listed from the reference column. Look up all of these verses and then to “chase/follow the reference” you need to look up all of the “r”s in the verses you are sent to by the reference column until you exhaust the pertinent theme in relation to the book and verses you are specifically studying. It can take some time to chase all the references but it will be well worth it.
7. Remember to have complete context read 5 verses before and 5 verses after all the additional texts you look you. This helps to assure you will not come to an incorrect doctrine. Context is critical. Whatever conclusion you come to should be in the context of the chapter, then the book and also at least 10 to 15 other books of the Bible. The conclusion should be in the words of scripture explicitly where possible, and if it is symbolic the symbols should clearly imply their meaning otherwise it should not be accepted. When properly done a scriptural conclusion will be such that you can hand the Bible, with the sequence of scripture to another person and they should see the same thing without any of your explanation when they are honest seekers of true.

8. The significant benefit of this method is that when you use the Bible to formulate your message and allow the Bible to speak for itself, this gives the power of the Holy Spirit to your presentation. This is an excellent Bible learning tool. With regular use of this method you will become very knowledgeable about the Bible and related verses. If you are presenting the findings you come up with use, as few words of your own as possible and when you do explain that which you have discovered stay very close in wording to the Bible. Give emphasis to the words of the Bible the same as the Bible emphasis, not your own words or adding what you think. Presentations (sermons & studies) of the Gospel are not to be opinions but the Truth, solid facts. This will help you spiritually and strengthen those you are studying with. Studies where people come together and say, "I think this is what it means," will not anchor the soul in these turbulent times or give strength through the peaks and valleys of life's experiences. Take a stand on the Word of God and teach it and live by a "Thus saith the Lord!" This will lead to power and growth spiritually that will lead to victory in the life.
9. Ultimately because the Bible is the inspired Word of God, take it at face value, do what it says, all of it, not just the part that makes you feel warm and fuzzy or is easily agreeable to, then the Bible will be truly your guide and anchor. Then you will learn that we have "a faithful Creator," by experience.

The Spirit of Prophecy is given us to make the Bible clear. You can look up indexed verses which will clearly explain the scripture. The Bible and SOP are meant to be studied together, not separately. This is where you gain a tremendous benefit.

Spirit of Prophecy/Testimony of Jesus

- These books are critical to your spiritual growth, the Testimony of Jesus will shepherd your walk, put your hand in Jesus hand as He walks only on the strait and narrow path.
- Read each book cover to cover first, then subject study in detail.
- Study systematically, book to book as you are led by the Holy Spirit praying which book to study next, finish a book once started or you will not be symmetrical in your grow or be out of context, misapplying principles not having the complete components to the context.
- To be grounded in fundamental Biblical doctrines study only the KJV/SOP for 2 to 3 years before reading other authors unless absolutely necessary, your foundation must be made up from pure sources.
- Learn what is pure first and use only good sources.
- To set a pure/strong Biblical foundation start with the direct Bible commentaries listed below:

Conflict of Ages 5 Volume Series

Patriarchs and Prophets
 Prophets and Kings
 Desire of Ages
 Acts of the Apostles
 The Great Controversy

Additional SOP Bible Commentaries (Using the Personal Bible Study method)

Steps to Christ

Christ Object Lessons

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing

Early Writings(not for morning study, use in the afternoon/evening, for straight reading)

SOP Reading Method

When using the SOP books listed above with the Personal Study method on page 1, invariably persons find that they will have an increased hunger and thirst for reading and studying the Bible and SOP. Because your morning study is a study and should never be varied, though your location and lifestyle changes from time to time, you will find increased benefit from a reading plan that works synergistically with your morning study. You will benefit by reading a 2nd, 3rd or 4th book at an **appointed time** throughout the day which you schedule as led by the Holy Spirit.(see sample schedule below) In this method pick the time and SOP book and once again without varying, read that book at that appointed time and setting until the book is finish. ALWAYS FINISH THE BOOKS ONCE YOU HAVE STARTED THEM OR YOU WILL EXPERIENCE UN-SYMMETRICAL GROWTH WHICH CAN LEAD TO THE LOST OF YOUR SOUL. Add or start other SOP books as the Lord leads you by prayer, this will give you the correct doctrines biblically based so that you have correct theology.

- Be consistent in your reading, read just 2 pages a day if necessary, but live it, meditate on it, share it.
- For scripture or SOP to be understood in context it must be understood based on the whole chapter/book you are reading plus 10 to 15 Bible/SOP books: This is context!
- For your study to be truly beneficial to you, you must enter it with a spirit of humility: that is submit to whatever it says on the pages that's why the sources must be pure or you must know purity if you are studying outside of the pure sources.
- Establish and settle in your mind that the authority of the Word and Spirit of Prophecy is of God

Prayer

- This is a very important element, the Altar of Incense is closest to the Ark of the Covenant where God the Father dwells, your experience in prayer brings you closest to God.
- Submit your heart/mind/will(choice) to God each time you read to be taught by the Holy Spirit and understand that these words are to be considered as the audible voice of God.
- Learn to pray the direct will of God by praying straight out of the Word of God or SOP claiming the promises stated in their proper context, this is God's will.
- Start your prayers according to the model given in Matt 6, this is explain in detail in Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, also the Privilege of Prayer in Steps to Christ gives fundamental principles on how to pray effectively.
- Pray the promises of God back to our Father by praying what you read, straight out of the Word/SOP.

- When you have a special burden pray through the Psalms praying 3, 4, or 5, etc. chapters a day at prayer time adding your own words according to the burden of your heart, following closely the promise God gives us in the inspired writings.
- Start with the basics, repentance & confession, wisdom/discernment/knowledge/spiritual growth.
- God gave us the Word as our offensive weapon to defend, attack, obtain victory over all temptations, trials and obstacles. We can get the victory by no other method for this is the method Jesus used when on earth. Therefore the more of the Word you study and memorize the better equipped you will be for the battle.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” I John 5:14,15.

Scripture Memorization

“The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.” Psalm 37:31

- For edifying memorization, memorize the chapter containing the verse you like
- Memorize chapter by chapter until a book is completed
- Start with a small book, 6 Chapters or less, or an individual Psalm
- As you memorize scripture with this study format you will understand 10 fold more of the Word as you see the single thread of truth weaving throughout scripture
- Memorize 1 to 2 verses each day Monday to Friday
- Start memorization by repeating small phrases 3, 4, 5, words at a time until you have a sentence then the entire verse, this is fastest
- At the end of the week keep reviewing the 5 to 10 verses on Sabbath and Sunday
- Put your verses on 3 x 5 ring binder index cards to carry with you everywhere and memorize as you go about your daily routine, not taking time out of study and pray time, this will help with maintaining meditation on holy things throughout the day
- Each week add verses until you complete the chapter, continuing to review daily and on weekends
- Once you have spent an initial day on 1 or 2 verses, completing the chapter, you will probably not have the chapter memorized, continue to review day by day until the chapter is solidified in your memory, spend equal time on all the verses in a chapter, this also increases the speed in which you will memorize, BEWARE: memorizing a chapter in parts is actually slower
- As you progress from chapter to chapter review the memorized chapters at least once every 1 to 2 weeks

“The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions... **None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.**” GC 593

Additional Necessary Studies - (for use with the Surgical Method)

The Cross and Its Shadow by S. N. Haskell(read first, fundamentals of sanctuary)

The Sanctuary Service by M.L. Andreasen

With Jesus in His Sanctuary by Leslie Hardinge(detailed)

The Sanctuary and the Twenty-three Hundred Days of Daniel 8:14 by Uriah Smith

Daniel and Revelation by Uriah Smith

When studying the books listed above, use a more ***surgical** method to your study. By this I mean look up only the verse listed by the author maybe **one** or two verses(at most) before and after, the listed verse, if the Holy Spirit leads you. In Haskell's and Smith's books look up every verse. Even the verses like Gen 1:1 and John 3:16 and experience how the Holy Spirit will lead your mind to see new things and have a better understanding of the scripture. This is how the Holy Spirit will catalog meanings and context into your memory and you will learn the Bible thoroughly. With this method you will have mental notes above and beyond what you could write in the space available in your Bible and the expansion of them will be infinite.

TESTIMONY OF JESUS ON THE SANCTUARY

Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be **impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time** or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. {GC 488.2}

All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. **It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.** {GC 488.3}

The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above **is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross.** By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to **complete** in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, "whither the forerunner is for us entered." Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of

Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father's throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God. {GC 489.1}

TESTIMONY OF JESUS ON DANIEL AND REVELATION

God's Spirit has illuminated every page of Holy Writ, but there are those upon whom it makes little impression, because it is imperfectly understood. When the shaking comes, by the introduction of false theories, these **surface readers**, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness. . . . Daniel and Revelation must be studied, as well as the other prophecies of the Old and New Testaments. Let there be light, yes, light, in your dwellings. For this we need to pray. The Holy Spirit, shining upon the sacred page, will open our understanding, that we may know what is truth... {TM 112.1}

There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and that the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted. Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust. . . . {TM 112.2}

Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." **When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.** We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it. {TM 113.2}

In the past teachers have declared Daniel and the Revelation to be sealed books, and the people have turned from them. The veil whose apparent mystery has kept many from lifting it, God's own hand has withdrawn from these portions of His word. The very name "Revelation" contradicts the statement that it is a sealed book. "Revelation" means that something of importance is revealed. The truths of this book are addressed to those living in these last days. **We are standing with the veil removed in the holy place of sacred things. We are not to stand without. We are to enter, not with careless, irreverent thoughts, not with**

impetuous footsteps, but with reverence and godly fear. We are nearing the time when the prophecies of the book of Revelation are to be fulfilled. . . . {TM 113.3}

Advanced Principles of Bible Study

In the following section I have included the principles of William Miller which he used to study the Bible and form the presentations of the truths of Bible prophecy so important to us now. His principles are simple but profound and when strictly followed will lead to finding rich veins of Bible truth laying deep in the Word of God unseen and hidden from the superficial reader of the Bible. These principles are simple but I believe an advanced form of study compared to using the Spirit of Prophecy as listed above. The Spirit of Prophecy method bears fruit quickly and without much time intensive effort. Because it will give you a very good grand platform of entire Bible truth having used the plan completing the 5 Conflict of Ages Volumes and 3 additional commentaries COL, SC, MB. Your overall understanding of Bible context will greatly aid in finding the deeper truths using the William Miller principles. As we know William Miller came upon Daniel 8:14 and would not move on until he understood what the cleansing of the sanctuary meant. This method will give great benefit when preparing sermons, Bible studies, word studies, thematic studies or whenever looking at a specific vein of truth which you would like to find the deeper understanding of. I do not recommend this study method for your daily Bible study as it is time intensive and it is important for you to study and understand providing for immediate strength and growth because it may or may not bear the rich fruit immediately. Many have studied similar to this and have fallen off the strait and narrow path as they have become spiritually malnourished even though the method is superb it must be applied appropriately. After you have had your morning Bible study with the SOP, at some other time in the day this would be appropriate. Why? How many people can read Leviticus, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Zephaniah, Micah, etc. and understand them easily without commentary? Not many.

*WILLIAM MILLER'S RULES OF INTERPRETATION

“I determined to lay aside all my prepossessions, to thoroughly compare Scripture with Scripture, and to pursue its study in a regular and methodical manner. I commenced with Genesis, and read verse by verse, proceeding no faster than the meaning of the several passages should be so unfolded as to leave me free from embarrassment respecting any mysticisms or contradictions. Whenever I found anything obscure, my practice was to compare it with all collateral passages; and, by the help of Cruden's (Concordance), I examined all the texts of Scripture in which were found any of the prominent words contained in any obscure portion. Then, by letting every word have its proper bearing on the subject of the text, if my view of it harmonized with every collateral passage in the Bible, it ceased to be a difficulty. In this way I

pursued the study of the Bible, in my first perusal of it, for about two years, and was fully satisfied that it is its own interpreter. I found that, by a comparison of Scripture with history, all the prophecies, as far as they have been fulfilled, had been fulfilled literally; that all the various figures, metaphors, parables, similitude's, & c., of the Bible, were either explained in their immediate connection or the terms in which they were expressed were defined in other portions of the word; and, when thus explained, are to be literally understood in accordance with such explanation. I was thus satisfied that the Bible is a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the 'wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.' ”

In thus continuing the study, he adopted the following:

RULES OF INTERPRETATION

- I. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. Proof: Matthew 5:18.
- II. All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by a diligent application and study. Proof: II Timothy 3:15-17.
- III. Nothing revealed in Scriptures can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering. Proof: Deuteronomy 29:29. Matthew 10:26, 27. I Corinthians 2:10. Philippians 3:15; Isaiah 45:11. Matt. 21:22. John 14:13, 14; 15:7; James 1:5,6. I John 5:13-15.
- IV. To understand doctrine, bring all the Scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have its proper influence; and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error. Proof: Isaiah 28:7-29; 35:8. Proverbs 19:27. Luke 24:27, 44, 45. Rom. 16:26. James 5:19. II Peter 1:19, 20.
- V. Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed or wisdom, is my rule, and not the Bible. Proof: Psalm 19:7-11; 119:97-105. Matt. 23:8-10. I Cor. 2:12-16. Eze. 34:18, 19. Luke 11:52. Matt. 2:7, 8.
- VI. God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables; and in this way the same things are often time revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. Proof: Psalm 89:19. Hos. 12:10. Hab. 2:2. Acts 2:17. I Cor. 10:6. Heb. 9:9, 24. Psalm 78:2. Matt. 13:13, 34. Gen. 41:1-32. Daniel Chapters 2, 7, & 8. Acts 10:9-16.
- VII. Visions are always mentioned as such. II Cor. 12:1.
- VIII. Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy to represent future things, times and events,---such as mountains, meaning governments, Daniel 2:35,44; beasts, meaning kingdoms, Dan. 7:8,17; waters, meaning people, Rev. 17:1,15; day, meaning year, & c. Eze. 4:6.
- IX. Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures, by the subject and Bible. Mark 4:13.
- X. Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time, namely, first, indefinite, Eccles. 7:14; second, definite, a day for a year, Eze. 4:6; and third, a day for a thousand years, II Peter

3:8. The right construction will harmonize with the Bible, and make good sense; other constructions will not.

- XI. If a word makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, it is to be understood literally; if not, figuratively. Rev. 12:1,2; 17:3-7.
- XII. To learn the meaning of a figure, trace the word through your Bible, and when you find it explained, substitute the explanation for the word used; and, if it makes good sense, you need not look further; if not, look again.
- XIII. To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy: If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the event; but if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development; for God takes care that history and prophecy shall agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed. Psalm 22:5. Isaiah 45:17-19. I Peter 2:6. Rev. 17:17. Acts 3:18.
- XIV. The most important rule of all is, that you must have faith. It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires,--character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. We must believe that God will never forfeit His word; and we can have confidence the He who takes notice of the sparrow's fall, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of His own word and throw a barrier around it, and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in His word, from erring far from the truth."

*Memoirs of William Miller by Sylvester Bliss 1853 p. 69-27

EXAMPLE OF A SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND STUDY SCHEDULE

5 am Personal Study Method with the Bible and SOP

#DAILY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Patriarchs and Prophets

Breakfast Time

Ministry of Healing

Lunch Time

The Cross and Its Shadow by S.N. Haskell

*study this using the surgical method described above

Afternoon

Steps to Christ

Dinner Time

Daniel and Revelation by Uriah Smith

*study using the surgical method

Evening Time

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1

Auxiliary Time

Memorization

~While exercising, walking, traveling, waiting for appointments, cooking, during house cleaning, etc.

SOP Reading

~Carry a small SOP book with you, SC, MB, SL, FW, etc. which you can read wherever you may be when you have delays or periods of waiting, riding in a car, bus, etc.

GIVE A BIBLE STUDY

~Gather your church members or new contacts and lead a Bible Study at least once a week, and/or volunteer to teach Sabbath School when possible, it may be easiest to gather the brethren Sabbath afternoon to study and/or make good use of Sabbath time by leading impromptu studies at potluck. Do not just sit around talking about life on Sabbath (Isaiah 58:13,14) feed spiritually and strengthen those around you. Be the catalyst to spiritual revival and reformation in your church or area.

The above schedule must be tailored to fit according to your lifestyle and daily routine. It is only an example. Pray and the Lord will lead you to the efficient and proficient use of your time. Quantity is not the goal. Speed is not holiness. It is not how much you know but the development of the fruit of the Spirit, the blessing to others that you are able to impart, souls brought with you into the kingdom of God. "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 9:23,24. What is understanding? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Psalm 111:10. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." I John 2:3.

***KEEP IN MIND THE PRINCIPLE IS TO ALWAYS FINISH THE BOOK STARTED IN THE APPOINTED TIME SLOT. WHEN EVER YOU HAVE A FREE MOMENT IN THE APPOINTED TIME YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PUT THE TIME TO BENEFICIAL USE.**

Depending on the circumstances it may be a short time or long time before a book will be finished but speed is not the factor, spiritual growth is the objective and in due time that will be accomplished as long as you remain consistent and LIVE IT as you are impressed by the Holy Spirit.

#YOUR DAILY MORNING BIBLE STUDY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AND SHOULD NEVER BE VARIED. WHEN YOU TRAVEL, CHANGE WORK SCHEDULES, GOTO SCHOOL, MISSION TRIPS, CAMPMEETINGS, PROPHECY SCHOOLS AND ESPECIALLY A MINISTRY TRAINING SCHOOL. Remain consistent with the morning study though the other books and time slots may be altered. You will realize for yourself

that if you change this morning study you can slowly imperceptibly veer off the “strait and narrow path” and days, weeks or months later be in a deplorable spiritual condition. Be consistent, deliberate, systematic and persevering. The angels of God will be sent to help you with this once you resolve in your mind and pray to be kept committed.

You who are waiting in idle expectation that God will perform some wonderful miracle to enlighten the world in regard to the truth, I want to ask you if you have employed the means that God has provided for the advancement of his cause? You who pray for light and truth from heaven, have you studied the Scriptures? Have you desired "the sincere milk of the word," that you may grow thereby? Have you submitted yourselves to the revealed command? "Thou shalt," and "thou shall not," are definite requirements, and there is no place for idleness in the Christian life. **You who mourn your spiritual dearth, do you seek to know and to do the will of God? Are you striving to enter in at the straight gate? There is work, earnest work, to be done for the Master.** The evils condemned in God's word, must be overcome. You must individually battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. **The word of God is called "the sword of the Spirit," and you should become skillful in its use, if you would cut your way through the hosts of opposition and darkness.** <CE 116.3>

Those who humbly and prayerfully search the Scriptures, to know and to do God's will, will not be in doubt of their obligations to God. For "if any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." *[John 7:17.] If you would know the **mystery of godliness, you must follow the plain word of truth, -- feeling or no feeling, emotion or no emotion. Obedience must be rendered from a sense of principle, and the right must be pursued under all circumstances.** This is the character that is elected of God unto salvation. The test of a genuine Christian is given in the word of God. Says Jesus, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." *[John 14:15.] "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." *[John 14:21, 23, 24.] <CE 117.2>

The Bible is the only rule of faith and doctrine. And there is nothing more calculated to energize the mind, and strengthen the intellect, than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. **If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose, that is rarely seen in these times.** Thousands of men who minister in the pulpit are lacking in essential qualities of mind and character, because they do not apply themselves to the study of the Scriptures. They are content with a superficial knowledge of the truths that are full of rich depths of meaning; and they prefer to go on, losing much in every way, rather than to search diligently for the hidden treasure. <CE 118.2>

Those who are teaching the most solemn message ever given to the world, should discipline the mind to comprehend its significance. The theme of redemption will bear the most

concentrated study, and its depth will never be fully explored. You need not fear that you will exhaust this wonderful theme. Drink deep of the well of salvation. Go to the fountain for yourself, that you may be filled with refreshment, that Jesus may be in you a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life. **Only Bible truth and Bible religion will stand the test of the judgment.** We are not to pervert the word of God to suit our convenience, and worldly interests, but to honestly inquire, "What wilt thou have me to do?" "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." *[1 Cor. 6:19, 20.] And what a price! Not "with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ." *[1 Peter 1:18, 19.] When man was lost, the Son of God said, I will redeem him, I will become his surety and substitute. He laid aside his royal robes, clothed his divinity with humanity, stepped down from the royal throne, that he might reach the very depth of human woe and temptation, **lift up our fallen natures,** and **make it possible for us to be overcomers,**--the sons of God, the heirs of the eternal kingdom. Shall we then allow any consideration of earth to turn us away from the path of truth? Shall we not challenge every doctrine and theory, and put it to the test of God's word? <CE 119.2>

Here are the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life. Your obedience to God's commandments will prove your right to an inheritance with the saints in light. God has elected a certain excellence of character; and every one who, through the grace of Christ, shall reach the standard of his requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. **All who would reach this standard of character, will have to employ the means that God has provided to this end.** If you would inherit the rest that remaineth for the children of God, you must become a co-laborer with God. You are elected to wear the yoke of Christ, --to bear his burden, to lift his cross. You are to be diligent "to make your calling and election sure." *[2 Peter 1:10.] Search the Scriptures, and you will see that not a son or a daughter of Adam is elected to be saved in disobedience to God's law. The world makes void the law of God; but Christians are chosen to sanctification through obedience to the truth. They are elected to bear the cross, if they would wear the crown. <CE 118.1>

True faith, which relies wholly upon Christ, **will be manifested by obedience to all the requirements of God.** From Adam's day to the present time the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God's law. *In all ages there have been those who claimed a right to the favor of God even while they were disregarding some of His commands.* But the Scriptures declare that **by works is "faith made perfect,"** and that, without the works of obedience, faith "is dead." James 2:22, 17. He that professes to know God, "and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4. <PP 72.2>

Are you acquiring new facts, getting fresh ideas concerning the plan of salvation? **Are you acting upon those truths which you have already received, lest they leak out of your mind as water out of a broken vessel?** Those who would become efficient laborers in the cause must **put into exercise that which they already know of truth, disciplining the mind to practice line upon line and precept upon precept.** The Lord desires that his messengers should find their inspiration by closely studying his holy word, by sinking the shaft deep into the mines of truth. {RH, May 24, 1892 par. 2}

Doctrinal discourses have been preached to the people, and many have listened and have accepted the doctrines, who have had little knowledge of the word of God; for they have not been students of the Bible, and have never felt it their duty to dig deep in the mines of truth. They catch at the surface truths. A much more thorough work should be done. **Some system must be adopted, that those who really want to know the truth as it is in Jesus, may have an opportunity of becoming students,** and that they may seek earnestly for spiritual knowledge and understanding, and partake of the rich provision of the Master's table. They have labored diligently for the bread that perisheth; let them now put forth an effort for the heavenly bread, and work with an earnestness befitting the treasure for which they seek. We plead not that the feelings may be stirred, the emotions awakened, but that the people of God may be fed with their portion of meat in due season. The work of our ministers must be of a different order. They must develop in patience and Christlikeness, that they may teach the way of life by precept and example. **The truth is of no value to any soul unless it is brought into the inner sanctuary,** and sanctifies the soul. Piety will degenerate, and religion become a shallow sentimentalism, unless the plowshare of truth is made to go deep into the fallow ground of the heart. **When the truth is received, it will work radical changes in life and character;** for religion means the abiding of Christ in the heart, and where he is, the soul goes on in spiritual activity, ever growing in grace, ever going on to perfection. All through our churches there are those who are spiritually paralyzed. They do not manifest spiritual life. {RH, May 24, 1892 par. 4}

The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth." If studied and obeyed, the Word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us, soul, body, and spirit, to his own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us. {ST, October 10, 1906 par. 11}

The whole Bible is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Received, believed, obeyed, it is the great instrumentality in the **transformation of character**. It is the grand stimulus, the constraining force, that quickens the physical, mental, and spiritual powers, and directs the life into right channels. {MH 458.1}

In the great conflict before us, he who would keep true to Christ must penetrate deeper than the opinions and doctrines of men. My message to ministers, young and old, is this: **Guard jealously your hours for prayer, Bible study, and self-examination.** Set aside a portion of each day for a study of the Scriptures and communion with God. Thus you will obtain spiritual strength, and will grow in favor with God. He alone can give you noble aspirations; He alone can fashion the character after the divine similitude. Draw near to Him in earnest prayer, and He will fill your hearts with high and holy purposes, and with deep, earnest longings for purity and clearness of thought. {GW 100.1}

A true knowledge of the Bible can be gained only through the aid of that Spirit by whom the Word was given. And in order to gain this knowledge, **we must live by it.** All that God's word commands, we are to obey. **All that it promises, we may claim.** The life which it enjoins is the life that, through its power, we are to live. Only as the Bible is thus held, can it be studied **effectively.**--"Education," page 189. {GW 100.2}