

Spiritual Training Part 12

Emphasis is study (Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Hello everyone!

It's great to see you diving into Part 12 of this spiritual training journey! Today's focus is all about study—**not just any study** but digging deep into God's word to grow in faith and understanding. Let's break it down together.

Starting with Jesus

We're reminded of **Matthew 11:28-30**, where Jesus invites us to come to Him, take on His yoke, and learn from Him.

His yoke is easy, His burden is light, and He offers rest for our souls. That's such a comforting thought, isn't it? Learning from Jesus isn't about stress; it's about peace and growth.

Faith and Diligence

Hebrews 11:6 is a key verse here: without faith, it's impossible to please God. But it doesn't stop at just believing He exists—we also need to believe He rewards those who **diligently seek Him**.

That word “**diligently**” is important. It's **not a casual glance** or a quick skim; it's about making a careful search, putting in effort, and truly seeking Him out.

The **Greek definitions** for “**diligently seek**” really drive this home. It's about exerting effort, investigating, scrutinizing, basically going all-in. This kind of pursuit leads to rewards, but those rewards come after the seeking.

Truth as Our Foundation

So what do we believe? We believe that God exists, that He is truth (**John 15:26, John 16:13**), and that His Word is truth (**John 17:17**).

Jesus, the truth, is our foundation (**John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 3:11**). God's truth acts as our “**plumb line**,” a standard of straightness and alignment (**Amos 7:7-8**). To stay aligned with Him, we need to know His Word—and that takes study.

The Importance of Study

2 Timothy 2:15 encourages us to study diligently, doing our best to handle the Word of Truth accurately. The **Greek definition** of “**study**” here implies intense effort and hard work. Why? Because knowing God's Word protects us—it helps us detect counterfeit gospels and stay grounded in truth (**Galatians 1:6-9**).

Studying scripture builds confidence in our prayer life too. **1 John 5:13-15** reminds us that when we know His will (which we learn through His Word), we can pray with confidence, knowing He hears us.

Fully Convinced

Take Abraham as an example (**Romans 4:20-22**). He didn't waver in his faith; he was fully convinced that God would fulfill His promises. That kind of conviction doesn't happen by accident—it takes effort and time spent with God.

This isn't about working to earn salvation (**Ephesians 2:8-9** makes that clear). Salvation is a gift. But effort is needed to reflect God's character and grow in understanding of who He is.

Seeking with Intensity

Jesus Himself encourages us to **ask, seek, and knock** (**Matthew 7:7-8**). **Proverbs 2:1-5** paints a vivid picture of seeking wisdom and understanding like hidden treasure. It's not a half-hearted effort; it's a **passionate pursuit**.

It's interesting how much effort people put into studying for school or careers compared to studying the Bible. Education isn't bad, but priorities matter. **Matthew 6:33** reminds us to seek God's kingdom first—everything else will follow.

The Enemy Fears This

Here's something powerful to remember: the devil fears those who not only study God's Word but also apply it in their lives. There's strength in knowing the truth and living it out.

So, let's keep going on this journey of study and growth—learning from Jesus, digging into scripture, and aligning our lives with God's truth.

Be encouraged!

Perspective #2

The Importance of Diligent Study in Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth is a journey that requires intentional effort, dedication, and a commitment to learning from the ultimate source of truth—God’s Word.

In this teaching, we explore the significance of studying scripture as a foundation for spiritual maturity, understanding God’s will, and living a life that reflects His truth.

Drawing from key biblical passages, we will examine how diligent study equips believers to grow in faith, discern truth, and confidently walk in harmony with God’s will.

The Call to Learn from God

The words of Jesus in **Matthew 11:28-30** serve as an invitation to all who labor and are burdened to come and learn from Him. He promises rest for our souls as we take His yoke upon us and embrace His teachings.

This call to learn is **not passive**; it requires **active engagement** with His Word and a willingness to let it transform our hearts and minds.

Hebrews 11:6 further emphasizes the importance of faith in our relationship with God: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Faith is foundational, but it must be accompanied by diligent seeking—a careful search to know and understand God’s truth. The **Greek definition** of “**diligently seek**” (NT #1567) underscores the effort involved: to exert considerable care in learning, investigating, and scrutinizing.

Why Study Matters

To truly know God and live in accordance with His will, we must prioritize studying His Word.

Scripture is the ultimate source of truth, as highlighted in passages such as **John 14:6**, **John 17:17**, and **Amos 7:7-8**.

Jesus Christ, the embodiment of truth, serves as our foundation, and God’s Word acts as our “**plumb line**”—a standard by which we measure verticality and straightness in our spiritual walk.

2 Timothy 2:15 reminds believers to “Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved... correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.” This command underscores the importance of diligent study—not merely reading but actively engaging with scripture to understand its meaning and application.

Studying God's Word protects us from **counterfeit gospels and false teachings**. **Galatians 1:6-9** warns against turning to a different gospel and emphasizes the consequences for those who distort the message of Christ.

By immersing ourselves in scripture, we can discern truth from error and confidently uphold the integrity of God's Word.

The Confidence That Comes from Knowing God's Will

Confidence in prayer and spiritual authority stems from knowing God's will, which is revealed through His Word. **1 John 5:13-15** assures believers that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

To pray effectively, we must align our requests with His will, a process that requires diligent study of scripture.

Abraham serves as an example of unwavering faith in **Romans 4:20-22**.

Despite challenges, he was fully convinced that God would fulfill His promises. This level of conviction does not come by chance; it requires effort and intentional engagement with God's truth.

While salvation is a gift of grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**), reflecting the fullness of God's character requires effort in **studying, seeking, and applying** His Word.

Effort in Seeking God

The Bible repeatedly highlights the importance of effort in seeking God. **Matthew 7:7-8** encourages believers to **ask, seek, and knock**, promising that those who seek will find.

Similarly, **Proverbs 2:1-5** illustrates the intensity required to gain wisdom and understanding: "If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God."

This level of dedication is often seen in academic pursuits but can sometimes be neglected in spiritual study.

While education is valuable, prioritizing scripture above all else ensures that we seek first God's kingdom and righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**).

The Power of Diligent Study

Diligent study of scripture **not only** equips us with knowledge **but also** empowers us to resist spiritual attacks.

The devil fears those who know God's Word intimately and apply it effectively. By studying scripture with intensity and focus, believers can detect false teachings, stand firm in faith, and confidently share the gospel.

Moreover, diligent study fosters spiritual maturity. It enables us to grow in understanding, discernment, and wisdom, qualities essential for navigating life's challenges and fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

Conclusion

Diligent study of God's Word is indispensable for spiritual growth. It allows believers to know God's truth, discern His will, and confidently live out their faith.

As **Hebrews 11:6** reminds us, God rewards those who **diligently** seek Him, not just with knowledge but with a **deeper relationship** with Him.

Let us embrace the call to study scripture with intentionality and effort, prioritizing it above all else.

By doing so, we reflect the **totality of who God is** and walk in agreement with His truth. As we continue this journey of spiritual growth, may we be fully convinced that God is faithful to fulfill His promises and guide us according to His perfect will.

To be continued...

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