

On the word of life

A case for reading the bible daily

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Basics

So this is probably the most important message (after the message of salvation) that I would deliver to any Christian or non-believer seeking God and wanting to experience his full power where the majority fail.

So my wife and I had a heated discussion (being loving Christians, I call it “intense fellowship”).

She sometimes felt a resentment when I pressured her to read the bible more often. When we eventually discussed and resolved it, we realised that she had misunderstood my urging - it was borne out of love - first for our spiritual growth but she had interpreted it as being judgmental – me being “holier than thou”, I was telling her what to do.

I of course apologised but then realised that perhaps I was just a “very satisfied customer” who having been in the wilderness for over 20 years (see my testimony adjacent) had seen what Jesus had done to transform my life – primarily through reading the bible daily. I have seen it heal me, teach me new things I never knew and given me hope.

I saw life giving waters, where some might see a burdensome obligation - a rope around the neck.

For our generation: Common objections.

The typical reasons for being unable to read the word daily is “lack of time”.

From my experience, it takes only about 15 -20 minutes to do a typical daily “[bible in one year plan](#)” but we of course have time to wake up, use the bathroom, check Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, Do exercise, Run errands, Deal with children on the school run, Have a meal - even on the go.

Who can you support today (give, pray for)?

Consider: [Biblica, the International bible society.](#)

Disclaimer: We have not been asked to give this recommendation, it is unsolicited. Our views are also not necessarily shared.

You can find related material to this topic here:

1. Video: how do you really read the bible?

https://youtu.be/YM_9JLZrzUI

2. Good bible app

<https://www.bible.com/en-GB>

3. My testimony:

How reading the bible helped me to finally hold on to Christ where I had previously failed several times.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/778cbf_e01c162f681e4029a212837d1a8b0a2a.pdf

If you can do these and see them as necessities - you can read the bible.

Bible formats vary these days and if you can't read the physical version, you can have it on your phone. They even come in audio format and so you can be driving/riding or on the bus/train and listen.

A matter of life and death

So the answer of course is reading is a matter of priority or life and death as I see it.

Assume you were on life support in hospital and needed to take oxygen to live - you would take it without fail right? Likewise assuming you knew that if don't carry your ID/pass to get into your work place, security wouldn't let you in, what would you do? Attach it to your key holder or even as people are now doing, attaching it to the body as a chip – it was after all a necessity right?

I look at it that way - the bible is life to me and if I miss one day, I literally feel like I'm going without oxygen and my mind is actually backsliding.

What I have learnt is that because I know I must read without fail, I plan ahead if for example I know I will have a busy day (say with the kids), I wake up slightly earlier and do my devotional or I steal 20 minutes while having my lunch to read.

I am in good company (with my view) and here is the evidence – “Your honour, I call to the witness stand the bible, as read by a zealot/Jesus freak/slave of Christ, D E Wasake!”

The evidence for reading daily

So this is some of the evidence I have seen, in my own experience:

Exhibit 1: Core evidence

1. Reading daily is a command for a Christian.

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”

Joshua 1:8 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/jos.1.8.nlt>

2. A warning: Abide in Jesus (the word) or your life's work is meaningless

““I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/jhn.15.5.nkjb>

3. It is not just words - it's alive and can read your thoughts and your heart

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/heb.4.12.nkjv>

4. Revelation of the King –the God who you serve

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw [in a vision] the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, with the train of His royal robe filling the [most holy part of the] temple. Above Him seraphim (heavenly beings) stood; each one had six wings: with two wings he covered his face, with two wings he covered his feet, and with two wings he flew.”

ISAIAH 6:1-2 AMP <https://www.bible.com/1588/isa.6.1-2.amp>

Exhibit 2: Secondary evidence

5. For Hope - for this life and the next

“Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?””

John 11:25-26 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/jhn.11.25-26.nlt>

6. it’s a war - the word is your sword!

“Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks.

For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.

So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One. And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you.

Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people.”

Ephesians 6:10-18 GNT <https://www.bible.com/68/eph.6.10-18.gnt>

7. In dry Christian season - to help you continue bearing fruit

““Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

Jeremiah 17:7-10 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/jer.17.7-10.nkiv>

8. In darkness - a lamp/light

“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

Psalms 119:105 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/psa.119.105.nkiv>

9. In error - a course correction GPS

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/2ti.3.16-17.nkjv>

Exhibit 3: Further secondary evidence

10. The interesting stories of God’s mysterious ways

“After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!” At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.”

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/2ch.20.21-22.nlt>

11. In foolishness - wisdom

“Why should I fear when trouble comes, when enemies surround me? They trust in their wealth and boast of great riches. Yet they cannot redeem themselves from death by paying a ransom to God. Redemption does not come so easily, for no one can ever pay enough to live forever and never see the grave.”

Psalms 49:5-9 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/psa.49.5-9.nlt>

“People who boast of their wealth don’t understand; they will die, just like animals.”

Psalms 49:20 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/psa.49.20.nlt>

12. When spiritually sick - it regenerates, renews

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

John 7:37-39 NKJV <https://www.bible.com/114/jhn.7.37-39.nkjv>

13. In pride - a humbler.

“Everyone who is proud and arrogant in heart is disgusting and exceedingly offensive to the LORD; Be assured he will not go unpunished.”

PROVERBS 16:5 AMP <https://www.bible.com/1588/pro.16.5.amp>

14. In addiction - no temptation can overcome you, Jesus is with you.

““The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,”

Luke 4:18 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/luk.4.18.nlt>

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/1co.10.13.nlt>

15. For knowledge - how we started, how we are and how we will be

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”

Genesis 1:1-2 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/gen.1.1-2.nlt>

16. Encouragement

“Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need.”

Psalms 34:9 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/psa.34.9.nlt>

17. The story of the ultimate rescue - from death.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/jhn.3.16.nlt>

18. A new way of thinking - different from the world

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 12:2 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/rom.12.2.nlt>

19. Help in discernment of false doctrine or teaching

“We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT <https://www.bible.com/116/2co.10.3-5.nlt>

Closing arguments

What should I include? What have I left out? I could go on forever about the others but perhaps all the books in the world would not be enough to narrate:ⁱ

The stories of: healings, deliverance, miracles, the prophecies, daily living matters on suffering, on tests and trials (2 chron 32:31, james 1:12)), how the history (an archeology tool), the laughter and the inspiration for countless changes in history of the world – including my own humble story.

The best thing is after all as the word of God is living, it will speak to you - for your circumstances.

What will your story be? What will your verdict be based on the case for reading daily?

Your turn

If your verdict is yes and you are convinced that the bible is life and not just a “nice to have”, then:

1. Download a bible reading app.

Consider these two:

Includes different reading plans: <https://www.bible.com/en-GB>

Allows detailed analysis (e.g commentaries, lexicon): <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

2. Develop a reading pattern/schedule

Refuse to give up reading daily. This is where the bible.com reading plan app for example helps. It keeps you on track and shows you missed days. You can then catch up on your reading. If you need, set an alarm or a specific “quiet time”.

Notes

ⁱ Adapted from John 21: 25: *“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” (NIV)*