

CAPTURED BY THE WORD PRT 5

I am excited to be able to continue on our topic of getting into the word. Last week we began to look at how to rightly divide the word. It was a very important teaching and if you missed it, I want to encourage you to go to our website and listen to that message.

This morning, I would like us to deal with **THE ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENT OF THE WORD.**

Let me start by saying a simple believer is better positioned to conduct an effective bible study than a brilliant sceptic.

Remember that the objective for bible study is for obedience and transformation rather than for fact gathering and information.

Today's teaching has more to do with how to get the word into you – this is the process of moving the word from the head to the heart.

Three things that make up the appropriate attitude for a student of the word

1. Engage the activity of the Holy Spirit

- The best person to fix a broken machine is the designer and the best person to explain a book is the author.
- To fix a Toyota, you go to the designer or an approved dealership, to fix a human being, you go to the creator. With regards to the correctly handling of the scriptures, you need to go to the one who wrote them.
- When it comes to the scriptures, the Holy Spirit is the primary author of Scripture.

2Peter 1:21 For prophecy was not borne at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke being borne along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed

- Every scripture has two authors but one meaning; the human writer who was guided by the Holy Spirit.
- A student of the word has the Holy Spirit in him and with him in order to ensure proper understanding.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever, 17 the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him nor know Him. But you know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you.

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- **What happens when you engage the Holy Spirit in your study of the Holy Scriptures?**

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ... But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13).

- The Holy Spirit will teach you, remind you and guide you into all truth
- One of the goals for interpreting scriptures is to get the original intended meaning and when you engage the Holy Spirit, He brings clarity to that meaning.
- Paul taught boldly that nobody could truly comprehend the Scriptures without the help of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- Without the Spirit you cannot welcome the Lord's truth, you will resist the truth, you will not wish to submit to God and your mind finds it foolish.
- What is it that the Holy Spirit does not do? The Holy Spirit does not reveal special hidden meanings which are different to the normal, literal meaning of scriptures.
- The majority of scriptures are readily understood and the few complicated ones become clearer with more intent study. The Holy Spirit does not give you sudden and mysterious interpretation of scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit directs our thoughts and expands our understanding as we diligently and prayerfully meditate on his Word.

2. Adopt the correct view of scripture

- This point is worth repeating: Without the correct view of scripture, you will reject both the truthfulness and the authority of the Bible.
- A lot of theologians know the scriptures but sometimes come up with the most outrageous interpretations.
- A low view of scriptures results in the rejection of what does not agree with your preference
- In other words, you may understand the words, but you reject their truthfulness and authority.
- The right view to scripture begins by believing that the Bible is fully inspired by God and authoritative for life and doctrine.

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2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- The right view to scripture means that you will submit to it, you will not entertain the so-called contradictions that are alleged to be found in it and that you will defend its sanctity by all means possible.
- If your trust in Scripture crumbles, your faith in Jesus will collapse.
- An effective bible study is only possible when you respect the ultimate purpose of scripture.

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- God gave his Word to equip his church for kingdom manifestation.
- When you approach the word with the right attitude the following will happen:
 - You will be taught - relates to right beliefs
 - You will be rebuked (reprimanded, reprovved) - relates to wrong behavior
 - You will be corrected - relates to wrong beliefs
 - You will be trained - relates to right behavior
- The Scriptures reveal God's will - they tell us what to believe and what not to believe.
- Scriptures can only be fully understood, when there is a willingness to follow them.

3. Mix your bible study with much prayer

- The help of the Holy Spirit is solicited through prayer – we ask Him to come and help us.
- Prayer opens up the eyes of your spirit, resulting in revelation and understanding of scriptures.

Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better

- All people who had a great handle on the word, were people of prayer – Martin Luther King was known to pray for 2 to 3 hrs. every morning because he believed he could not study well unless he had prayed well.
- Daniel was a man of prayer and had more insight into the Scriptures than his colleagues.
- Prayer is required before engaging scriptures and prayer is required after engaging scriptures.

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- The God of this world has a tendency of blinding you from getting the truth – that is why one should pray for the spirit of revelation and understanding.
- Praying over scripture cements the word in the crevices of your heart. It causes the word to richly dwell inside of you.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Prayer is simply talking to God and this is at the heart of what every believer is encouraged to do – which is to meditate on the word of God.
- Meditating upon scripture is a way of praying over scripture.
- The Hebrew word translated ‘meditate’ means ‘to mutter’. It pictures a man softly reading or repeating a portion of Scripture to himself over and over again, musing on it, pondering its meaning.
- The Old Testament had a wonderful way of calling people to meditate on God’s Word.
- This is what God told Joshua:

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; 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.

- Families were encouraged to keep focusing on the word all day long

Deuteronomy 11:19 And you shall teach them to your sons, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them upon the door posts of your house, and upon your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied in the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, like the days of the heavens upon the earth.

- There is a direct correlation between meditating on the word and being able to exercise the word.
- The act of meditation requires a great deal of patience and discipline, which is lacking in a lot of believers.
- What you meditate upon is deposited in your heart and what fills your heart influences your behavior.
- Psalm 1:2 describes a ‘blessed man’ like this:

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

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