

Oakland International Fellowship

The Flow: Growing in God’s Word

Session #13

1. **Why is God’s Word important? (2 Tim 3:15-17)**

The doctrine of the sufficiency of scripture states that the Bible contains all the words of God we need for salvation, and for trusting and obeying him perfectly.

See also: 1 Pet 1:23-25

Psalm 119:1 If we walk in the word of God, we are blameless!

Implications:

* No other texts or traditions are needful
* Modern revelations should be tested against the Bible (1 Cor. 14:29, 1 Jn. 4:1)
* We should find comfort as we seek God’s will that we are in it if we are living in accordance with scripture (consider, e.g., 1 Cor. 7:39)

1. **Why is it important to study God’s Word on my own? (Acts 11:17, Eph 4:14)**

The doctrine of the clarity of scripture states that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.

* We must first admit that some passages of scripture are hard (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
* However, all parents were expected to teach the law to their children and discuss it (Deut 6:6-7)
* Bible books are written to entire churches, not just the teachers (1 Cor 1:2, Gal 1:2, Phil. 1:1, Col 4:16, James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1, 1 John 2:12-14, 5:13)
* Nonetheless, unbelievers cannot understand the Bible, because they are blinded (1 Cor 2:14, 2 Cor. 4:4).
* We still have misunderstandings because of our lack of faith (Luke 24:25), or simply because we aren’t capable of understanding God fully (Is. 55:8-9, Deut. 29:29)
* God also helps us through the Holy Spirit (John 16:13) and through teachers gifted by the Spirit (Eph. 4:11)

1. **How should I study God’s word? (Joshua 1:8)**

OIA – Observe, Interpret, Apply

**Meditation questions**

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a command to follow?

Is there something for which I should give thanks?

Are there examples I should emulate/avoid?

What does this teach me about God?

What does this teach me about myself?

How should this affect my priorities? My attitudes? My relationships? My lifestyle?

What specific things can I do to put this in practice?

**Resources**

Concordance

Dictionaries (Vine’s NT, Wilson’s OT)

Commentaries/Study Bible

Almanac

1. **What is the value of memorizing God’s word?**

We can use Scripture to counter temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Word of God changes our hearts (Hebrews 4:12)

It comforts you in trials and stress (Ps. 119:49-52)

It helps you make wise decisions (Ps. 119:105)

It helps you witness to others (1 Peter 3:15)

**Questions for reflection:**

Do I desire God’s Word?

Do I apply and obey God’s Word?

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

What practices or tools are helpful to you in learning and applying God’s Word?

What would you like to do to grow in God’s Word?