

# *The Gift of God's Word*

## **HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – PART 2**

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Course: Discipleship Program

# Bible Study: The Highest Privilege

- Most American Christians have at least one Bible if not more.
- We, as Americans have never had to contend with someone taking our Bibles away and forbidding us to go to our local church.
- However, that is not the case in most of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- I want to bring home to you this one thing before we begin to study the Bible: **IT IS THE HIGHEST PRIVILEGE** we have. So many believers would love to be able to have what we have.

# North Korea – Number 1 Persecutor of Christians in the World

- *With 50,000 to 70,000 Christians believed to be locked away in horrific conditions at concentration camps around the country, North Korea remains indisputably the number one persecutor of Christians on earth today. Over the course of 2013 reports emerged of Christian missionaries killed traveling in and out of North Korea, of Christians executed in mass public executions, and of course of Kenneth Bae, the American missionary now detained for over a year. Around the world Christians must continue to pray for their brothers and sisters suffering so tremendously in the "Hermit Kingdom."*

# North Korean Concentration Camp



# Chinese Christian Persecution

- *In an almost unbelievable series of events, the Nanle Country Christian Church in Henan Province was recently attacked by Chinese authorities who several weeks earlier arrested the church pastor and 23 members. After being barred from worshipping in their building on Dec. 1, the congregation moved to a location in a nearby forest to hold their service at a site pre-approved by the local government. Only a few minutes after the group of about 200 Christians began singing hymns authorities arrived and began to "physically and verbally" abuse the congregation, reportedly slapping one elderly woman in the face so hard she began to bleed. The congregation then retreated to a roadside, where they were instructed to return to their church building. Upon arrival the government had placed two former church members who were considered radical and had been kicked out of the church years before to "lead" the service. This article also lists several of those members who still remain in detention.*

# Chinese Christian Persecution



# Chinese Underground Church



# Syrian Christian Persecution

- As the civil conflict inside Syria becomes more and more severe, targeted violence against Christians has escalated. The Syrian opposition is increasingly 'Islamizing', and Christians are becoming more vulnerable in all spheres of life. Many Christians were reported to have been abducted, physically harmed or killed, and many churches damaged or destroyed. On October 21st, Islamist militias invaded the ancient Christian settlement of Sadad, killing at least 45 people, and injuring many more.



# Syrian Christian Persecution



PARIS MATCH

SAHED: 31 ANNUY D'ES DJIHADISTES DE CARITENT EN PUBLIC DES MILICHO PRO RÉGIME

SYRIE

SURENCHÈRE DANS L'HORREUR



# The Countries of Christian Persecution

## KEY

EXTREME PERSECUTION

SEVERE PERSECUTION

MODERATE PERSECUTION

SPARSE PERSECUTION

1. North Korea	14. Nigeria	27. Oman	40. Malaysia
2. Somalia	15. Uzbekistan	28. India	41. Bahrain
3. Syria	16. Central African Rep.	29. Sri Lanka	42. Comoros
4. Iraq	17. Ethiopia	30. Tunisia	43. Kenya
5. Afghanistan	18. Vietnam	31. Bhutan	44. Morocco
6. Saudi Arabia	19. Qatar	32. Algeria	45. Tajikistan
7. Maldives	20. Turkmenistan	33. Mali	46. Djibouti
8. Pakistan	21. Laos	34. Palestinian Territories	47. Indonesia
9. Iran	22. Egypt	35. United Arab Emirates	48. Bangladesh
10. Yemen	23. Myanmar (Burma)	36. Mauritania	49. Tanzania
11. Sudan	24. Brunei	37. China	50. Niger
12. Eritrea	25. Colombia	38. Kuwait	
13. Libya	26. Jordan	39. Kazakhstan	

# The Highest Privilege

- Studying the Word of God is the highest privilege simply because WE CAN! We have the freedom to study the Bible to our heart's content.
- Aside from the fact that most other Christians in the world don't have this freedom; aside from the fact that freedom is even an issue in studying the Word; studying God's Word is our primary source of spiritual "meat." It is the primary communication tool between us and a Holy God. It is commanded by God to study His Word. Joshua 1:8 says ***"This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success."***

# The Highest Privilege

- Joshua was on a difficult assignment from the Lord that required he stay continually in the Word of God in order to be successful.
- We too, are given assignments, tough assignments that will require that we stay continually in the Word of God in order to get the victory.
- God put out a lot of effort to bring this Bible to us. He had to anoint the writers, bring the history into place to learn from it, He had to send His only Son to die for us so the New Testament could be written.
- We have this awesome privilege to freely open our Bibles anytime and anywhere without fear of death or imprisonment.
- We are also commanded by God our Father to “hide” the Word in our hearts so that when the time is right we can give “a word in season to him who is weary.”

# The Precious Word of God



Malawi Christians Get Bibles



Angola Christians Get Bibles



Rwanda Christians Get Bibles



India Christians Get Bibles



Chinese Christians Get Bibles



Vietnamese Christians Get Bibles

# The Precious Word of God

- One last point I want to make before we go into the Bible study for tonight.
- The Word of God is precious. It should be treated as highly as you would a 100 carat diamond.
- The Word of God is Jesus Christ. The Bible is His Heart, His will for our lives and His commandment to study and hide in our hearts.
- I pray that we all begin to look at our Bibles: the Word of the Living God differently after tonight.

# How to Study the Bible – Recap Part 1

- Welcome back to Part 2 of How to Study the Bible!
- Last week we learned how important it is to have a regular time of Bible study in addition to your daily Bible reading time with the Lord.
- The Lord uses the Bible to speak to us and help us get victory in the battles we are going through.
- We learned about the different ways to study the Bible: in a Bible study group, with a partner or by yourself.



# How to Study the Bible – Recap Part 1

- We learned about four approaches to Bible study that can be done practically in a setting—group or alone.
- These approaches are:
  - The Topical Bible Study - This approach takes one topic such as Water Baptism and goes through the scriptures using a concordance, the Internet or Bible Software as the “tools.”
  - The Chapter “Gleaning” Study – This approach takes one chapter of the Bible and goes through each verse studying each verse using multiple versions of the Bible. This can be done online or you can buy a multiple version Bible. Online is FREE.

# How to Study the Bible – Recap Part 1

- The Scripture “Trail” Study – This approach is to take your “base” scripture and look up all scriptures associated with it and look them up and then follow the trail of scriptures through the Bible from that one scripture. It is amazing how God will show you things down this trail!
- The Bible Book Study – This approach is to take a book of the Bible such as Genesis and go through each chapter noting each principle(s) the Lord shows you.

# How to Study the Bible – Recap Part 1

- Tonight we are going to learn how to do the last two Bible study methods shown here tonight.
  - ▣ The Scripture “Trail” Study Method
  - ▣ The Bible Book Study Method
- Get out your highlighters, pens and notebooks and let’s learn how to study the Bible!

# The Scripture “Trail” Study Method

## □ Step 1 - PRAY FOR A SCRIPTURE

- As with anything else in the kingdom of God, we need to always be led by the Holy Spirit. Don't just pick a scripture off the top of your head. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT what He scripture He wants to start with. So begin your Bible study with prayer asking for direction and a scripture.
- You will sense a scripture rising in your spirit. He'll tell you; just wait for it.

# The Scripture “Trail” Study Method-Step 2

- Step 2 – BEGIN THE SCRIPTURE SEARCH
  - Once the Holy Spirit gives you a scripture to start with, you are now ready to begin following the “trail” of scriptures related to it.
  - Read the “base” scripture and any commentaries in your study Bible. Write down anything that “jumps” out at you or you feel the Holy Spirit urging you to.
  - Write down the related scriptures and look up the scripture(s) related to it. Follow the same process for each scripture.

# The Scripture “Trail” Study Method-Step 3

- Step 3 – GATHERING THE NUGGETS
  - Continue to look up the scriptures you find, read any commentaries on them and really think about them for a minute. Write down any light bulb moments the Lord gives you.
  - Also look up specific words in other Bible versions or online or in the Greek or Hebrew dictionaries (online can help and it’s FREE!)
  - Continue to do this until you reach the end of the “trail.” OR you feel the release of the Spirit to do so.

# The Scripture “Trail” Study Method-Step 4

- Step 4—REVIEWING THE NUGGETS
  - After you have reached the stopping point or the end of the “trail”, set everything down and go back through your notes and read what the Lord has shown you in the Bible study time.
  - If you are in a study group or with a partner, let each person share what nuggets the Holy Spirit showed them.
  - Write down in your notebook the nuggets that “jump out” at you during this time. It’s fun to go back through at a later time and be reminded of the things He showed you in Bible study.

# The Bible Book Study Method-Format

- The Bible Book Study Method takes a book of the Bible and you read through each chapter and write down the things the Lord shows you as you read. These are the “nuggets” of truth that He will reveal.
- You will also be looking for principles in the overall storyline.
- This method tends to stay in the book of focus. Although, if there are scriptures written that are related, you can either look them up or write them down for later research.



# The Bible Book Study Method - Tools

- As with any other Bible study method, you will need the following tools:
  - ▣ Pens & highlighters
  - ▣ A notebook
  - ▣ Study Bible & other versions of the Bible
  - ▣ Online Bible Study tool and/or Exhaustive Concordance
- These tools will help you focus and it's fun to go back and read what the Lord has shown you during this time.

# The Bible Book Study Method - Step 1

- Step 1 – Get a Book to Study from the Holy Spirit
  - The first thing you do is to set up all your tools (notebook, study Bible, other Bible versions, your computer set to online Bible tools, pens and highlighters).
  - The second thing you do is to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to come and teach you out of the Word and ask Him to tell you what book of the Bible He wants you to study.

# The Bible Book Study Method – Step 2

- Step 2 – Gather the “Nuggets”
  - The first thing you do is go to the book the Holy Spirit revealed and start in Chapter 1, verse 1.
  - Next you begin reading – out loud – the first chapter. When a scripture “jumps out” at you, write it down in your notebook.
  - Next, look for any commentary in your study Bible on that particular scripture. Then look for any associated scriptures listed and write them down in your notebook. You can either look them up right then or you can save them for another time or during your regular Bible reading to look up.
  - Look up the verse in multiple versions of the Bible such as the Young’s Literal Bible, the Amplified or the Greek Hebrew Study Bible. This can give more clarity and insight into the meaning of the scripture.
  - Continue reading the second chapter and write down any principles you begin to see as you read through the book. Continue to write down scriptures that “jump out” at you and follow that process.
  - Do this until the end of the book or if the Holy Spirit releases you.

# The Bible Book Study Method – Step 3

- Step 3 – Reviewing the “Nuggets”
  - ▣ Now it’s time to review all the “nuggets” of truth the Holy Spirit has revealed to you during the study time.
  - ▣ If you are in a group Bible study, everyone should share what He has said to them. As they share, write down what they said to meditate on it later.
  - ▣ If you are alone, just read over everything and meditate and talk the to the Holy Spirit about it in prayer. Ask Him to help you apply it to your life in a practical way.
  - ▣ Remember, in this study method you are looking for not only individual scripture “nuggets” but also principles you can see in the Bible story...a bigger picture so to speak.

# It's Bible Study Time!

- Now we are going to actually do a Bible study using the two methods discussed here tonight.
  - ▣ The Scripture “Trail” Study Method
  - ▣ The Bible Book Study Method
- We are going to take 30 minutes to do each method.
- We are going to break into small groups and study each method and then swap methods from one group to the other.
- Then we are going to share the “nuggets” that the Lord showed us during the study time.

# It's Bible Study Time!

- Group 1 is going to do The Scripture Trail Method for the first 30 minute segment.
- Group 2 is going do the Bible Book Study Method for the first 30 minute segment.
- After 30 minutes, each group will then do a different Bible study using the other study method.
  - ▣ Group 1 will now do the Bible Book Study Method.
  - ▣ Group 2 will now do the Scripture Trail Method.

After 30 minutes, we'll share any nuggets the Lord showed us during the last 30 minutes.

Remember to write down in your notebook ANY nuggets that jump out at you as people share theirs!

# Here We Go!

- Here are the starting points of these two Bible studies:
  - First 30 Minutes
    - Group 1 – Start with Isaiah 25:9 and follow the “trail”
    - Group 2 – Study the Book of I John
  - Second 30 Minutes
    - Group 1 – Study the Book of Titus
    - Group 2 – Isaiah 53:12 and follow the “trail”
  - Pastor Katy is Group 1’s Facilitator
  - Pastor Larry is Group 2’s Facilitator
  - I am the floater...I will be here to answer any questions or help in any way.