

**Living a Fruitful Life
Getting Rooted through Daily Personal Bible study**

Intro: I would like to thank Brother Doug and Mark for filling in for me last week while I was in Israel. I'm sure you enjoyed their lessons. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Israel and I appreciate your interest in my work there.

This year I've been talking to you about living a fruitful life. We've seen the reasons why we need to be fruitful and the keys to being fruitful. We've seen the importance of getting rooted by assembling with the saints. I would like to thank those of you who responded so favorably to my lessons. I appreciate very much your efforts to become more involved in the assemblies.

Another way we are able to get rooted for fruitful living is through personal Bible reading and study. Many of you read and study the Bible regularly. We've tried to promote that. At different times we've even made it a congregation goal to read through the Scriptures in their entirety. The regular reading and study of the scripture is strongly stressed in the scripture itself.

The psalms begin with a stress upon the value of meditation upon the word of God.

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

But notice the impact upon one's personal fruitfulness.

And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3).

So I want to encourage you to get rooted by daily personal reading and study. Here are some reasons to spend a little time each day in personal Bible reading and study.

Daily personal Bible reading and study will give us evidence upon which to build our faith.

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

When the Bereans were confronted with a message they had not heard, they had the nobility to investigate:

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)

By searching the Scriptures daily they were able to see that Paul's testimony concerning Jesus was true.

By spending time each day reading and study the Scriptures we are gaining the solid evidence we need to build our faith.

Daily personal Bible reading and study will give us the information to discern truth from error.

In Jesus' day there were many discussions and debates about right and wrong, about what God's will was on various matters. Jesus believed that the truth could be known by taking the time to read the Scriptures.

And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Mt. 19:4-5)

But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." (Matthew 22:31-32)

Peter wrote his second epistle to warn the church about false teachers and the possibility of apostasy; but his antidote was a simple one:

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Daily personal Bible reading and study will give us insight into the overall plan of God.

Paul assured the Ephesians that God had by revelation made known to him His plan for the ages—the mystery of God. But he pointed out that all can know the plan of God by reading what he had written.

that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (Ephesians 3:3-5)

Many people have no sense of how the books of the Bible fit together. They do not know what the story of the Bible is. This can easily be remedied however by daily reading and study. Your familiarity with the whole of the Bible story enables you to relate the various passages in God's word to their historical & spiritual situation.

Conclusion: By daily Bible reading and study we experience the full benefits that the Scriptures were intended to give us.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Scriptures are the most important document we possess on earth. Cf. quote: They reveal...

You'll never regret the decision and the effort you spend in reading and studying the Bible as we have urged today. It will help you get rooted in the truth so that your life will bear the fruit that comes from the life-changing message of the Scripture.