

Living a Fruitful Life Getting Rooted Through Daily Bible Reading and Study

Intro: If we want to get rooted in the word of God, we cannot underestimate the importance of spending time every day reading and studying our Bibles. We've already seen several good reasons to make this a part of our daily lives.

- Gives us evidence upon which to build our faith
- Gives us the information to discern truth from error
- Gives us insight into the overall plan of God
- Fulfills our deepest personal spiritual needs
 - Feed the inner person
 - Protect us from the lure of temptation
 - Give us direction in times of uncertainty
 - Give us correction in times of complacency

Let's add another:

It will help us meet the challenges of daily life.

It will give us assurance and peace in times of worry

There's plenty to work about in this world; but then some of us were born with a special propensity for worrying. I even knew a lady one time that was worried about worrying too much! Here's where reading the Scripture can help.

Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble. (Ps. 119:165)

God's word has the power to calm us down, to put things in perspective and to give assurance and peace in times of worry.

It will assure us of God's love in times of tribulation and when life is threatening.

From an intellectual standpoint, faith is not always easy. When times are hard and we can't figure out what God is doing, it is easier to struggle with our faith: Where is God when I'm suffering? Why do I have to endure this? But reading God's word gives us reasons to overcome our uncertainty and re-affirm our faith in God's love and care, even when life seems to contradict it.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (Rom. 8:35-37)

Paul is saying, "There are times when the devil is making an all-out assault on us; even then, we cannot give up. Instead we must remember that God loves us even when such things are going on around us. He has already given us the greatest assurance of His love in the gift of His Son.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32)

It will give meaning and joy to our mundane existence

Sometimes life is mundane and maybe even boring. We may not be suffering from the emotional roller-coaster of ups and downs or the excitement of new challenges and opportunities, but from the monotony of life's sameness. Even here the word of God can help. It gives us the daily joy of discovering new things and gaining new insights into God and His plan. The Psalmist delighted in his times with the word of God.

*The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; (Ps. 19:8)
I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart. (Ps. 119:111)*

How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Ps. 119:103)

In a word, God's word to the eager reader can add zest and enjoyment to the most boring day. It can give meaning and purpose to our life's activities and efforts—even to the ones that others may not appreciate.

It will give us comfort in times of sorrow

And then there are the moments of sorrow when we are confronted with death—whether devastatingly sudden or painfully predictable. We feel like we've been broadsided on the highway of life. Such times make us appreciate the prayer of the psalmist.

May Thy lovingkindness comfort me, according to Thy word to Thy servant. (Ps. 119:76)

And what we've heard read at someone else's loved one's funeral speak us with new power.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thes. 4:16-18)

It will give us hope in times of fear and despair

Sometimes in life the big questions are, "Will I even get through this? And if I do, why will it matter?" God's word was written for such times. It assures us of God's presence no matter what is happening to us.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. (Ps. 23:4)

And it promises us that all our efforts have not been in vain.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

Conclusion: In these three lessons then I've given you many reasons to spend time with the word of God every day. (And I could give you several more; but these will be enough.) Take time every day to hear a word from God.

But let us not just think in terms of the immediate value; let's remember that by being rooted in the word of God we gain the divine help and strength to live a fruitful life.