

CONTACT

CONTent

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ACTion

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October 17, 2021

Training In The Word (Week 2) Take It In

Let's begin together with something Jesus said about the importance of taking in God's Word.

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Implication: Taking in the Word of God is as important to life as eating! Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy. He had taken it in. He had trained in the word. He was effectively quoting it as a weapon against the tempter. It was a powerful weapon.

God's Word is as important to your Spiritual life as food is to your physical life. Are you spiritually starving without realizing it? Take it in!

Last week was "Why Bother"

This week, "Take It In"

Next week, "Process It"

Concluding with "Live It Out".

We need to "Take it in". That is the title today. This past Tuesday, the YouVersion verse of the day video was Timothy Keller. I want you to hear this.

VIDEO (Timothy Keller on Proverbs 3:5-6)

There are many approaches to training in sports. For example a long distance runner, doesn't just run, long distance. There is interval training, and speed training etc. So, also in training in the word, I change things up to keep things fresh. It helps to have various training tools. Here is one.

CONTACT (an acrostic guide): (CONTent & ACTion) Bible Study Method

Controlled by
prayer

Pray that God will control your study. Pray for intellectual honesty. Pray that God will open your eyes to truths that you may not have seen before. Pray for God's help in your study.

There are many potential roadblocks to understanding God's Word properly. One major barrier is the problem of our own heart. Start by humbling yourself before God. We need his help understanding his revealed Word. If there is something off inside it will hinder your understanding. We jump into the middle of a confrontation between Jesus and the religious teachers of God's word. Their bad motives blocked their understanding.

John 5:39–40 (NIV) You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

The first thing to note here is that you can "Take In" the Word of God, and not experience the results that God wants for your life. You can take it in without making CONTACT with God. Many people do. These teachers of God's word missed the main point of all the scriptures.

If you want to make Contact with God, Step one is always humbling ourselves before him! This is not a one time thing. This is step one whether praying, or studying, or asking for his help, or seeking Jesus as your savior to save you.

Jesus' opponents had a problem in their own heart blocking them from receiving God's Living Word, Jesus himself. Their motives for studying the Bible missed the mark! They pursued study for prestige.

Every time you study the Bible humble yourself before God and ask him to help.

Orientation Get the big picture. Who wrote the book and why? What is the general content, themes? Read it over and over to get a feel for the big picture.

Read before and after a text you are trying to understand. Study things in context.

A very helpful tool for orientation is a good Study Bible. Let me recommend to you the ESV Study Bible. It is pricey but well worth the investment. This Study Bible is written by a team of scholars. Before each book of the Bible is an introduction that orients you to that book. You can get this in Kindle or regular formats for under \$30. It's worth the investment if you will use it.

Notice Text Write down a word, a phrase, a sentence, or an entire paragraph that strikes you, the text you "notice". This is the text you decide to take a more careful look at. Decide to know a lot about a little.

My notice text was from John 5:40. "Yet you refuse to come to me."

Jesus makes the point that the whole of scriptures lead to him! Refusal on this, and you've missed the point of TRAINING IN THE WORD!

Translate
Text "Translate" or interpret your notice texts. Define words, explain phrases, write out what it says in your words. Find out where it fits in the context (see your orientation). Ask good questions: who, what, why, how, when, and where?

Can I show you something very useful on a smartphone?

VIDEO YouVersion Compare Feature

A

pplication

Put what you have learned into action. To help you do so, you want to write the principle or focus into a 1-5 word nutshell. Then try to write down an illustration of the truth or an implementation of it. The illustration can be from your own experience. It can be past, present, or future.

My focus was. Come to Jesus. When properly understood in context, every scripture helps us do this. Here is a video to illustrate this truth.

VIDEO: Bible project: "How to read the Bible Series"

C

ommitment

Make a commitment to do what you have learned. Knowledge without action is useless.

We are commanded to train in the Word. But the Bible is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end.

It is a signpost pointing in the direction in which we must go, pointing directly to Christ. What folly to be taken up with measuring and studying and admiring the signpost and not to get its message and do what it says.

This happened then. This still happens today. People study and miss the main point.

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Share what you have learned with someone else. Find anybody who will listen. If you can teach it, you have learned it.

If you are like me you have an Active mind...and an overactive forgetter!

It helps to write stuff down, then share it. (Share the Flip Side of Outline. CONTent worksheet. ACTion worksheet).

