

Just Reading the Book Won't Help
By Bob Young
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Back in May, several of us signed up for the summer Bible reading program. More may have committed to the project without signing up—we have given away almost 100 Bible reading guides. With summer's midpoint behind us, with about 50 days left in the 100 day program (Memorial Day to Labor Day), it occurred to me that it may be time to update my progress on my summer Bible reading program. My report sounds familiar: I have not read as far as I had hoped or planned. The second part of my report is more hopeful: I have probably read more than I would have otherwise. (The second part of my report reflects the truth that we seldom do more than we plan to do!)

While the focus on reading is helpful, the ultimate goal is always practical and life-changing. I am reminded of an older article from the pen of John Gipson.

I felt sorry for her...and myself.

The blizzard complicated things as I arrived at the Detroit airport to make my way home to Little Rock.

The computers were down, and the airlines were having difficulties trying to seat passengers.

Fortunately, I already had my boarding pass and managed to get on the plane. The attendants struggled because they didn't know who was sitting where. Many ended up with seats which were already occupied. Before it was over our plane was loaded to the gills.

Then I saw her—a massive lady with two large carry-on bags. You're right. She was headed to the seat next to mine. With nowhere to put her luggage, it had to go on the floor—depriving her of any leg room. As she squeezed into the seat I could hear her labored breathing. Getting aboard had not been easy. I felt sorry for her...and myself. We both were terrible crowded.

After a few minutes of trying to get her breath she reached into her enormous purse and pulled out a book, and pound sack of M&M's (peanuts). By the time we reached St. Louis she had finished the peanuts. She was still reading the book, on dieting!

As I made my exit, the thought kept running through my head, "It takes more than reading the book." Then I began to examine myself. I spend time every day reading and studying the Book. That's good! But it's not enough. If the Book is going to help me, I must become more than a hearer of the Word. I must put it into practice.

'If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'

I hope you'll keep reading the Book, and even increase your reading. But when it is all said and done, may we never forget that the reason we read is to change our lives, to become authentic disciples of the one who is the Living Word and to look more and more like Him!