

Feasting on God's Word and Knowing Jesus

By Bob Young

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For many Christians, daily Bible reading is often short and sweet. God meets us in his Word, but few of us spend significant time studying and memorizing that word. For most of us, we are doing well just to stay minimally exposed to His Word!

Bible reading is reciprocal. We get out what we put in. When we are exposed to his word, our souls are exposed. Such intertwining does not come quickly.

Consider John 1. I have read it many times. You most likely have read it also. We read. Too often we do not expect anything new. We read expecting little change or impact—we are doing our duty! Take time to read slowly. Meditate. Contemplate what is being said. Allow yourself to be filled with wonder. (One path to increased wonder is to study the “Knowing Jesus” video series.)

I have been rereading the gospels. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning" (Jn. 1:1-2). So what? What do you see? How can we read and not stop to catch our breath? John clearly says that Jesus was God. Allow your mind to wander. Around the world are millions of religious people who respect Jesus but think that he was just a man. Millions of people who follow some other religion. Incredibly, even some Christians deny that Jesus was divine, deny the virgin birth, deny Scripture.

Can we learn to read Scripture expecting the light bulbs to explode? Expecting insights? Does your head ever burst in amazement? A short passage is often more than we can take in. Stop reading. Sit. Sense the awe. I share an introductory invocation to reading Scripture that I sometimes use.

*I sit alone,
Only my God is here,
Only my God is welcome.
In his presence, I seek his heart; he listens.
I open and read his book, and I listen.
And what I read and learn,
I teach.*

Reading Scripture means listening. Listening to God means that God is present. Jesus heart-dwelling, Spirit indwelling. Not grasped quickly. Not forced. Not automatic. But to be expected....

Will you commit to reading the Bible afresh? Soul food. Necessary nourishment for spiritual fitness. Open hearts and minds. Seeking Jesus. Wanting to know Jesus. Seeking faith. God's powerful word will do more than satisfy our spiritual appetite. We will find a feast awaiting.