



Why Not Read and Follow the Bible?

August 19, 2018

Seven Reasons People Don't Read and Follow the Bible

1. WHY NOT? The Bible does not relate to our modern world and my daily life
2. WHY NOT? The Bible was forced on me as a kid
3. WHY NOT? I don't have time
4. WHY NOT? The Bible convicts me and makes me uncomfortable
5. WHY NOT? The Bible is just a book written by ancient people
6. WHY NOT? I don't like reading
7. WHY NOT? It is hard for me to understand

What if the Bible could do what it says it can do?

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Make us **wise** (for salvation),
- **Teach** us what we need to know,
- **Rebuke** us when we are on the wrong path,
- **Correct** us and get us on the right path,
- **Train** us to live righteous lives,
- **Equip** us for every good work.

Psalm 119

⁹ *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.*

¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*

⁹⁸ *Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than my enemies.*

⁹⁹ *I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.*

¹⁰¹ *I have kept my feet from every evil path
so that I might obey your word.*

¹⁰³ *How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth.*

¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.*

¹¹⁰ *The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.*

¹¹¹ *Your statutes are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.*

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Help me live a more **pure life**,
- **Protect** me from the power and consequences of sin,
- Grow me into a **wise** person (deep maturity),
- Shine **light** on my path in a dark world,
- Bring **sweetness** and blessing to my life,
- Reveal **snare**s of the enemy on my path,
- Bring deep and lasting **joy**.

Joshua 1:7-8

⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Bring you **success** and prosperity in your life.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Perform **spiritual surgery** to remove deep and hidden sin you might not even know is there.

Psalms 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Make your life **fruitful**, healthy, and overflowing with goodness.

Ephesians 6:17 & Matthew 4:3-4

¹⁷ *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

³ *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

What if reading, loving, and following the Bible would...

- Prepare us for the **spiritual battles** we will face in our lives!

When We Think... The Bible does not relate to our modern world and my daily life...

Why Not... Believe the Bible is relevant to every generation if we will study it and let the Spirit speak to us.

When We Think... The Bible was forced on me as a kid

Why Not... Make a decision to give it a fresh look as an adult.

When We Think... I don't have time

Why Not... Make time by setting aside some less important things!

When We Think... The Bible convicts me and makes me uncomfortable

Why Not... Allow the Bible to stretch and change me?

When We Think... The Bible is just a book written by ancient people

Why Not... Discover that the Bible is the Holy Spirit breathed truth of God?

When We Think... I don't like reading

Why Not... Try listening to the Bible like the ancient people did?

When We Think... It is hard for me to understand

Why Not... Start with an easy part and then go deeper as I grow?

We can come up with many reasons not to read the Bible and study it consistently, but the deepest reason is that the enemy of our soul does not want us equipped for the battles we face every day!