

We submerge ourselves in Scripture not for religious attention, spiritual points, or some imagined heavenly entrance exam. We dive into Scripture for in it we find that the One we are journeying toward comes to travel with us. We explore Scripture in search of salvation from our marooned life and discover that our Lord delivers salvation in person. In the depths of Scripture we come to know God as we are known by Him.

"Knowledge is experienced rather than acquired. It does not consist of findings about something, it is the thing itself. It is not a compound of religious truths. It is an element that cannot be separated into parts. One who enjoys this kind of knowledge is able to understand [that] God is not a conclusion drawn from evidence nor is He the sum of what the Bible teaches about Him. He knows God in the irreducible meaning of the word know. It may almost be said that God happened to him." A.W. Tozer

"Scripture is one of the most powerful means of transforming our minds... as we immerse them in scripture." John Ortberg

"As in paradise, God walks in the Holy Scriptures, seeking man." Saint Ambrose

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth." Jesus Christ

"A loving Personality dominates the Bible, walking among the trees of the garden... Always a living Person is present, speaking, pleading, loving, working, and manifesting himself whenever and wherever his people have the receptivity necessary to receive." A. W. Tozer

"The myth of objectivity, which depends on a radical separation of the knower from the known, has been declared bankrupt. We now see that to know something is to have a living relationship with it - influencing and being influenced by the object known... If what we know is an abstract, impersonal, apart from us, it cannot be truth, for truth involves a vulnerable, faithful, and risk-filled interpretation of the knower and the known." Parker. J. Palmer

"They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily." Luke

Romans 11:33-12:2

James 4:8-10

Proverbs 2:1-6

Hebrews 5:11-14

Isaiah 57:15

2 Timothy 2:15

1 Timothy 4:6-10

1 Corinthians 2:10

To submerge ourselves in Scripture we need to listen to the Word, read the Word, study the Word, memorize the Word, practice the Word, and teach the Word.

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
Psalm 119:9-16

One of the greatest tools we have for submerging ourselves in Scripture is *memorized reading*. Internalizing the Word of God allows the Holy Spirit to teach us all the time and throughout all of life.

Here is a simple and reliable system for internalizing God's Word called *memorized reading*. If you are one of the countless Christians who have struggled with the discipline of Scripture memory, I trust you will find this simple process refreshing.

Most people recognize that our minds are extremely underused. The beauty of the memorization process discussed here is that our minds are begging to be exercised in such a manner.

When we put a word in front of our eyes, the mind simply recognizes it (from a mental file, labeled "vocabulary") and repeats it. Little mental activity is used. However, when we arrange a string of symbols that only represent words, our mind is willingly challenged to create a new mental file (e.g. "Ephesians") and store our vocabulary words in specific order.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..."

4 G s ♥ t W t h G h O B S

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

i t B, G C t H & t E

Through a few simple steps we can give our mind and soul permission to accomplish what they are yearning to do.

- Write down a passage using the first letter of each word or a symbol to represent each word. (less is more)
- Have a friend read the verse from the Bible as you follow along with the cards. (don't labor over a word, let your friend help, keep it flowing)
- Repeat this several times
- Read from the card back to your friend as your friend helps where needed.
- Once you can read from the card, repeat verses throughout the day.
- Work on reading new verses each day, building on what you can already read.
- Enjoy being with God in his Word. Have fun!



To continue the conversation, email
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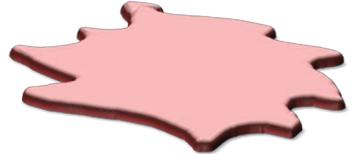
Theology is what God has revealed. This is fixed like hardened steel. Though our understanding will continue to grow, God's revelation will never change.



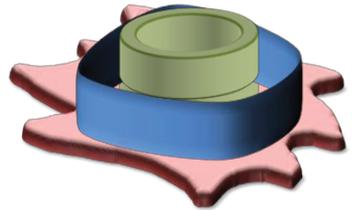
Philosophy is what we think about what God has revealed. This must remain pliable like sheet metal. As we study truth, our philosophy must continue to be shaped by theology.



Methodology is what we do about what we think about what God has revealed. This must be fluid like mercury. Our theology and philosophy come to fruition in our methodology.

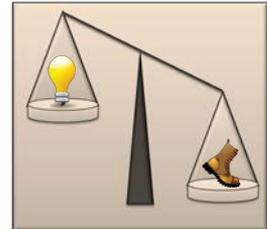
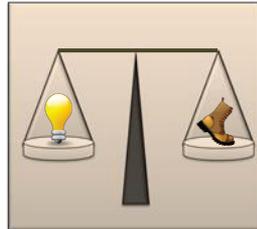
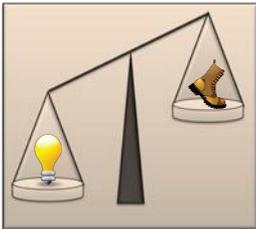


As we study God's revealed **Theology**, it must shape our **Philosophy**, which then pushes our **Methodology** out into our present context bending and filling around every turn.



In the essentials – unity. In the peripherals – freedom. In all things – love.

Our level of practical foolishness is directly proportionate to the span between what we know and what we apply. When we know more than we practice, we play the fool. When we practice more than we know, we play the fool.



"Some brothers...went to see Abba Felix and they begged him to say a word to them. But the old man kept silence. After they had asked for a long time he said to them, 'You wish to hear a word?' They said, 'Yes, Abba.' Then the old man said to them, 'There are no more words nowadays. When the brothers used to consult the old men and when they did what was said to them, God showed them how to speak. But now, since they ask without doing that which they hear, God has withdrawn the grace of the word from the old men and they do not find anything to say, since there are no longer any who carry their words out.' Hearing this, the brothers groaned, saying, 'Pray for us, Abba.'"

Benedicta Ward

John 14:23
James 1:22-25

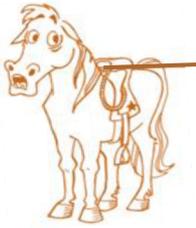
Luke 11:28
Philippians 4:9

Romans 2:13
1 Timothy 4:15

Foolishness is measured in the expanse between what we know and what we practice.

"If all this appears self-contradictory - Amen, be it so. The various elements of truth stand in perpetual antithesis, sometimes requiring us to believe apparent opposites while we wait for the moment when we shall know as we are known. Then truth which now appears to be in conflict with itself will arise in shining unity and it will be seen that the conflict has not been in the truth but in our sin-damaged minds."

A.W. Tozer



In the yesteryears of America's frontier, cowboys would train young horses to keep their rope taut by roping a rank bull, tying off to the horse, and leaving them alone. Horses learned very fast that life is all about tension, not balance – a lesson we would do well to learn today, especially concerning the discipline of Bible study.



"The one who endures to the end will be saved." Matthew 10

A dialectical approach to Scripture embraces the reality of tensions evident in God's revelation. Many revealed truths in the Bible seem, at initial glance, to contradict each other.

"Born again to a living hope...that is imperishable."
1 Peter 1

So, which one is it? Are we once-saved-always-saved, or must we persevere to the end? The dialectic answers, "Yes."

God is outside the confines of His three-dimensional creation, yet we receive His self-revelation within these confines. Imagine our world as two-dimensional and God as three-dimensional. Each divine, three-dimensional encounter would leave only a two-dimensional imprint for us to study. If we were to add all of these revelations together they would never fit into our two-dimensional models of comprehension. Now, we are forced to accept beyond our capacities looking for an eventual cohesive understanding.

"...when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1John 3

As an example, Scripture is replete with revelations of God's sovereignty. It is equally inundated with instructions about our volitional will. It is our "two-dimensional" tendency to embrace just one side of this contention. The dialectician embraces both and looks for the ultimate singularity of God's revelation.

A glimpse of such singularity, in respect to this particular debate, can be found in Acts 17:26-27:

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him."

"He has...determined...so that they...might grope for Him..."

God's sovereignty or man's will? ...Yes!

In the study of Scripture, do not be afraid to live within the intrinsic tension of God's revelation. Just exercise some horse sense and keep the rope taut.