

Take the Time to Read, Jesus took the time to Bleed: January 6, 2019

In the 70's a Christian band that has disappeared from all traces had a line, "Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed." In the 90's a Christian rock group, The Kry borrowed the line and put it in their song, "Make the Connection." I'd like to use it again for this message, designed to turn the direction of Desert Light into people who know God well, and hear Him speak through His word.



I'm on the couch. The game is on. If the commercial comes on I grab my phone and check for messages, new FB posts, or any articles on the news. I may also flip channels. In the midst of all this, a blonde golden retriever comes up to my place on the couch and begins by placing her head on my lap. I don't respond. Then she jumps up on my lap with her body trying to invade my world and get my attention. Her message is, "That thing on the wall and the thing in your hand don't love you like I do." Too many things demand our immediate attention. We are too weak and we obey them. But God wants to jump in our laps and love on us with real love. Yet we are easily taken by devices and we miss the greatest thing ever.



The Lord wants to speak to you and I through His word. He gave us the Bible, spoke to us and yet we put it off for things that only drain us and we hope entertain us. Let's change that! Let's be people of the word! 4 chapter a day either reading to or listening to scripture and we'll read through it all in 50 weeks- less than a year! It will require taking and making the short time every day to make it happen. How do we get motivated? An old song 40 some years ago said, *"Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed."* and we can add to it, *He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.* We need to radically change our lives, spend time in the word, because Jesus is the word. We need to radically change our lives, spend time in the word because it will make us succeed, it will put our brains back together, make us more intelligent, and give us insight and clarity into our own inner self, whether we are being emotional or spiritual. **Take the time to read. Jesus took the time to bleed He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.**

1 . Take the time to read, Jesus is the word!

John 1:1-5 says it clearly. ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*** And so there is no mistake as to Who the Word is, ***...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***" So when we take the time to read, Jesus is the word. It is Him, the One who bled, was whipped, mocked, beaten, carried a cross, died on that cross, and 3 days later walked out of a rock tomb in glory. How do I know?

1 Corinthians 1:1-4 says it was, ***"according to the scriptures."*** We often see the bible as only a manual for Christian living, duty, and obedience. It is so much more. It is how we

connect with the Living Word, Jesus. It is the thoughts of our Father. It is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. At a point in eternity before time began as the Father, Son, and Spirit planned all about us they came to a decision. Father: "I will determine what to say." Son: "I will be what you say." Spirit: "I'll inspire men to write what you say!"

Yes, Peter told us, **"you have been born again...through the living and abiding word of God"** (1 Peter 1:23).



As a student, a missionary, away from my beloved mom, dad, my brothers and sister, family, and friends, the letters from home fulfilled Proverbs 25:25, **"Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a distant land."** Those letters reminded me that I'm loved and there are those who really care about me. According to Augustine of Hippo, **"The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home."** *Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He's the Word He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.*

2 . Take the time to read, because the bible will do wonders for you!

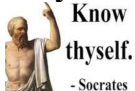
First and foremost, the words of scripture are God's thoughts. A great way to know Him better, is to know His thoughts. But this isn't even enough. The heart must want Him, and look to hear from Him as the one who loves me.



Why are the Jews the most successful people on earth? Could it be that #1 priority for a Jewish boy, 5 till 12 years old is to study the Torah, in Hebrew? Bar Mitzvah is the successful completion of the assignment. This is what they get out of it from Joshua 1:8, **"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."**

Reading and doing the bible makes one successful on earth. It will put your brain back together, like a hot tub session after a workout relieves muscles. Romans 12:2 calls it, **"The renewal of your mind."** It exchanges our angry, ugly, frustrated, hopeless, and sad thinking with God's thinking, **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"** (Isaiah 55:8-11).

Same brain, brand new thoughts! The bible makes us smarter, **"I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation"** (Psalm 119:99). It will guide us, **"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"** (Psalm 119:105). It will always tell you the truth. If you trust someone who really cares, you'll let them tell you the truth, won't you? Sometimes the truth is hard, but we need it. Elisabeth Elliot, missionary and author put it this way, "The Word of God I think of as a straight edge, which shows up our own crookedness. We can't really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture." Jesus said to the Father, **"Thy word is truth"** (John 17:17).



Know
thyself.
- Socrates

Socrates is famous for saying, **"Gnothi Sauton"** or, "Know thyself." The word of God will tell us our own inner self, so we know ourselves, if we are acting or

reacting, help us recognize if our emotions or spirit are feeding the will.

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

Do you want truth, light that guides, to be more intelligent, fresh thinking, and to know yourself to your own heart? *Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed, it will do you wonders .He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.*

3 . Take the time to read, so here's how you do it.

First, read from the book or listen to a bible app.



Read in detail, meditating or memorizing, like walking through the jungle, taking specimens, and looking at them under a microscope. Other ways to read in detail:

Memorizing the Bible is a lost art. Other religions do it. From ancient times, Jewish boys recited the Torah. Muslims say that if every copy of the Koran were destroyed, it would not be lost because of those who have memorized its every word.

High-caste Hindus memorize Vedas (Hindu sacred writings) from childhood. God told Israel, ***"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead"*** (Deuteronomy 11:18).

One benefit of memorizing Bible texts is having scripture available at any time or place—for meditation or for sharing with others. Meditation can be compared to a cow chewing its cud. By repeatedly chewing its food, hour after hour, it is able to totally digest its grass or feed. In meditation, we think deeply, over and over, on a scripture text.

As the Lord commanded Joshua, ***"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night"*** (Joshua. 1:8). Reading a small portion of the Bible over and over will allow you to see things in the passage that you might miss reading it just once.



But reading big portions of scripture is also very important. Since God gave His message to us in books, it seems most reasonable to assume that the best way to understand it is by reading the Bible book by book. 4 chapters a day, 6 days/week will

get one all the way through in 50 weeks, less than a year! Read long passages scripture to become familiar with the entire Bible, like getting a panoramic view from an airplane. *Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed! He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.*

J.C. Ryle, an oft quoted great 19th century Anglican author wrote, "Let us read our Bibles in private more, and with more pains and diligence. Ignorance of Scripture is the root of all error, and makes a person helpless in the hand of the devil." A Barna poll indicated that at least 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Another survey of graduating high school seniors revealed that over 50 percent thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham.

Paul the apostle, training Timothy what is important in churches said, **"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."** (1 Timothy 4:13). The church is called to be devoted, committed to reading scripture. It seems like this message is asking you to do a chore, but it's truly delightful, *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."* (Psalm 1:2).

**Can we please, this year,
let God speak to us in His word?**

Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed?

Reading the word like it is God loving us and speaking to us is like getting His hug on the soul, a pat on the back to the human spirit.

Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.

We can pay the price, put down the device, let Him bug you, let His word hug you, you know how much you need Him, let Him touch you, c'mon read Him... Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.

Have you not heard? Jesus is the word! Whipped, beaten, mocked, died and walked out of a tomb of rock. Hey, Hey, Hey, He's got something to say! Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.

The thoughts of our Father, look what He's done, spoke to us through the love of His Son, men wrote it down, inspired by the Spirit, don't drown the sound, let our hearts hear it, a letter from our home in heav'n has been given, Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.

He will speak, He is meek, His thoughts renew the mind and grant success, remove the stress, His words make sense, give us intelligence, it's the truth and here's the proof... Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.

Have I not mentioned His word discerns the heart's intentions? So put away the lies, read, meditate, and memorize, the words of God, from heaven above, breathed upon us, given in love... Take the time to read, Jesus took the time to bleed. He rose from the dead, we can bet our lives on what He said.