

LEARNING TO LEARN

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(This outline was made from Earle H. West's Book, "How to Study the Bible")

INTRODUCTION

1. Our subject is "Learning to Learn".
2. A common complaint heard among people is, "I read the Bible but I don't get anything out of it".
3. The real difficulty is that we do not know how to learn effectively.
4. Many have expected learning to happen automatically as they run their eyes down the page.
5. The Bible is not as hard to study as many think – Eph. 5:17; 3: 3- 4.
6. We can study the Bible better by improving the learning process.

I. MOTIVATION

- a. This simply means a desire to do something.
 - i. When the Bible is read ONLY from a sense of duty and without expecting to learn anything, the motivation is poor and little will be learned.
 - ii. Ezra understood motivation for he *"Prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord"* – Ezra 7:10.
 - iii. David in Psalms 1:2: *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night"*
- b. We also need to understand the dreadful effect of having the wrong motive in our approach to Bible study.
 - i. 2 Thess. 2: 10 – 12; Ezek. 14:4; John 7:17.
- c. Helpful motivation may not only come from our love for God's word, but also the desire to solve some problem with light from God's word.
 - i. It is difficult to study in a vacuum where you can see no possible use for what you are studying.
 - ii. Greater awareness of our need for God's guidance, and confidence that the Bible holds the answer for our many daily problems, will help us study with better motivation – 2 Tim. 3: 16 – 17.
 1. Home
 - a. Husband and wife
 - b. Children
 - c. Divorce
 2. Church
 - a. Worship
 - b. Work
 3. Moral problems
 - a. Dress
 - b. Activities

- iii. Faith that God's will is the best way of life is a help.
- iv. This leads one to approach God's word saying, "*Speak Lord, thy servant heareth*".

II. REACTION

- a. Have you ever been reading and suddenly realized that you did NOT know what it was about?
- b. Man cannot acquire knowledge by just letting it "pass through" the mind.
- c. Our minds must be active as we study.
 - i. This is the principle of reaction.
 - ii. The mind, if it is to learn, must be constantly engaged in asking questions, connecting what is being read with something learned earlier, and making application of what is read.
 - iii. One cannot learn without reacting.
 - iv. In order to learn, one must force one's mind to engage in these activities.

III. CONCENTRATION

- a. All of us notice many things that we never remember simply because we do not turn the attention of the mind to those things.
- b. Many people are discouraged in Bible study because they forget so quickly what they have read.
 - i. The big factor is the lack of total concentration.
- c. Proper motivation will help concentration.
- d. One's physical arrangements for study must be considered:
 - i. Effective study is difficult in competition with radio and TV.
 - ii. It is easier to concentrate when sitting at a desk or table than in a comfortable living room chair.
 - iii. Even the kind of book you use may have an effect.
 - iv. A Bible about the size of an ordinary book, with good print, will prove helpful.
 - v. Establishing definite habits in regard to study enables you to concentrate better.
 - 1. It is helpful to study about the same time and place each day.
 - 2. Avoid a time when physical fatigue makes study almost impossible.
 - 3. It will help to set a definite length of time and make it short enough that you don't find yourself watching the clock.
 - 4. An adult can maintain peak concentration on a book for about 30 minutes.
 - 5. Concentration is also aided by having a definite plan of study.

IV. ORGANIZATION

- a. Perhaps you remember how difficult it is to put together a jigsaw puzzle if you have never seen the entire picture.
- b. The same is true in study.
- c. It is a help to get a general idea about what you are studying.
 - i. There are various ways to do this.
 - 1. Topical summaries at the top of the page will help.
 - 2. It will help to read the material through in a hurry at first.
 - 3. It will help if you develop the habit of writing as you study.

V. COMPREHENSION

- a. Comprehension takes place when you “GET THE IDEA” of what you read.
- b. Frequently people deceive themselves about what they have learned when they say, “I understand it but I can’t tell anyone else.”
- c. One test of your comprehension of a think is your ability to put it in other words.
- d. As you study, take time to ask yourself about what you have been studying.

VI. REPETITION

- a. Most of us have observed that children learn only by having a thing repeated again and again.
 - i. Did you know all of us learn the same https://youtu.be/pPYx_Gg0_kMway?
 - ii. Few indeed are the impressions that last a lifetime with one exposure.
- b. Provision for review must be made in your study habits.
- c. At least half of your study time should be devoted to thinking about what you have read – Psa. 1: 1 – 2.
- d. If you find yourself confining your study time almost entirely to reading, you should rearrange it to give more time to the principles in this lesson that calls for THINKING.