

Open the Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6*

*Character Building
In A Relationship With God*

*He that believeth on me, as **the scripture hath said**, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **John 7:38***

Introduction to the “Open The Light Studies”

The introduction has small gem studies throughout.

Please carefully pace your way through the study, no need to rush, do as much as time allows each day and pick up where you left off.

Prayer is important before study and a little Gem study on prayer will be covered within this introduction. For now, pray to God the Father for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you read asking in Jesus' blessed name at the end of your prayer. Remember to pray each day before you pick up from where you left off the day before. The prayers within the studies are only a guide. Don't rush through the studies; take your time as you pray and study, ask for God to teach His will in you. Do what you can each day and place a mark where you end your study for the day and pray asking God to help you think on the things you have studied, always end your prayers, asking in Jesus Name, Amen.

Why the different colours?

The different colours are to separate the Scriptures which are in black print from the author's words in blue, **headings are in bold blue**, along with the references in green, mostly from the Strong's Concordance from e-Sword, Collins online Dictionary and the references for the words of Ellen G White in purple and for Prayer and reminders to pray in Red, or a Hymn in orange. The scripture references are in Blue as well. The different colours can help with quick search, by going back through the studies if you need to re-read or go over any part of the lessons. It is good to know who, what, and where, as you are reading through the studies. You know exactly who wrote it where it has come from as you are reading.

Things you may need when studying, that help with your own deeper searching and understanding or for reference checks which is greatly recommended to do.

It is always good to have a Bible Concordance, a dictionary, and a thesaurus at hand. The larger the dictionary, the more words you have access to, and the more in-depth the meanings. The internet has a good resource of

dictionaries. A Strong's Bible Concordance and a dictionary, whether they be of a hardcopy / book or soft copy / electronic format, or internet, are great tools to have when studying God's Word. You can get a deeper understanding of the words used in the English King James Bible. Words are meant to be studied and understood; and when they are, your mind will be opened to a deeper understanding.

The following are some electronic resources from the internet which is recommended by the author:

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english>

<http://www.e-sword.net/> for the Strong's Concordance.

Ellen G. White Writings Comprehensive Research Edition (PC) with Bible.
<http://www.whiteestate.org/cdrom/cdrom.asp#research>

What Bible version is used in these studies?

All Scripture used in these Studies are from the King James Version, KJV.

It is always best to look up the verses given in any kind of study or sermon, even when it is supplied for you. This helps you with clarity, it also helps you to see what is given is correct and true. Also, by reading the verse or verses again will help you to remember the verses you read. Jesus said in John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” This happens when we spend time in the Word of God. What you read and learn of the Word, the Holy Spirit shall “teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance”. This happens when you are in Bible study with God or when you are sharing the Word with others. Even in prayer God blesses us with the remembrance of His Word. In hard times, sadness, distress, when asking for guidance or at any time, The Holy Spirit brings God's Word to remembrance that we may have words to share or to lift up, in strengthening and encouragement. Holding fast to this very truth that “... the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

Read John 14:15-27 and listen to what Jesus is teaching us.

Understanding Bible References

When studying lessons on the Bible, it helps to know how to read the text given. You may be given a long or short version to direct you to the chapter and verse. Short versions use punctuation marks to shorten the way it is written. We will look at how the long version is written first, then the short version. Both will be used throughout these studies.

See the following examples.

When finding a verse in the Bible

Example subject:

A verse that shows Jesus spent time with His Father early in the morning.

Long version:

Mark chapter 1 and verse 35

Short version:

Mark 1:35

When finding a reading in the Bible

Example subject:

Reading of how Jesus quiets a storm.

Long version:

Luke chapter 8 and verses 22 to 25

Short version:

Luke 8:22-25

To find in more than one place in the Bible

Example subject:

The Ten Commandments, which is found in more than one place in the Bible.

Long version:

Exodus chapter 20 and verses 1 to 17, and Deuteronomy chapter 5 and verses 6 to 21

Short version:

Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21

To find verses in the same Book

Example subject:

Holy Spirit

Long version:

John chapter 14 verse 26 and chapter 15 verse 26

Short version:

John 14:26; 15:26

The short versions are much quicker to read and write, and is mostly used when given the reference to any Bible scripture.

Markings and what they are used for

This marking is called a colon : ←

As you see it divides the chapter and the verse.

John 14:26

This marking is called a semicolon ; ←

It divides the chapter and its verse, from the next chapter and verse in the same book you are looking up. Also, it divides one book from another.

John 14:26; 15:26; Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21

This marking is called a hyphen – ←

This marking tells you to read from the first verse given, to and including, the last verse given.

Exodus 20:1-17

In this example, you would read Exodus chapter 20 verses 1, 2, 3 and so forth up to and including verse 17. This so can be used to read into the following chapter or chapters. Genesis 1:31 – 2:3, you would read verse 31 of chapter 1 to verse 3 in the following chapter.

Marking verses and writing notes in your Bible

Writing notes and marking verses in your Bible is one of the best ways to help you find verses of meaning to you. You can find them more easily when looking through your Bible. They also help you with your Bible studies by bringing out the scriptures that you have studied in-depth. But the best part, is that it can bring you closer to God because you are marking a place that has moved your heart and means something to you. Your Bible is the meeting place where your spiritual relationship with God is held and strengthened

along with Prayer. The Holy Spirit moves our hearts in Jesus and is our Spiritual Guide, given to us by Jesus. Read John 14:26.

Here are some examples of marking verses and making notes in your Bible.

Under line with waves by wiggling your pen

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
James 1:17

Underline with a ruler for straight lines

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.
Galatians 5:22-23

Highlighting it with a see though marker.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;
Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.
Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isaiah 1:16-20

Circling verse numbers or words in a verse

② I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

③ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Using a punctuation mark such as an asterisk next to a verse to indicate a note elsewhere on the page.

* ④ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

*v4 We should not make them nor have them. See Deuteronomy chapter 4.

All uses together.

⑤ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

⑥ And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

⑦ Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

* ⑧ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

⑨ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

⑩ But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

*v8-11 God's Rest Day was from Creation See Gen 2:1-3

⑪ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

⑫ Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

⑬ Thou shalt not kill.

⑭ Thou shalt not commit adultery.

⑮ Thou shalt not steal.

⑯ Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

⑰ Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Naturally, it will look slightly different when done by hand using a pen or marker in your own Bible. The examples are given for you to see and understand how to apply them in your Bible if you desired to do so.

When you see ... these three dots, this means that only part of a verse has been used. This is done to have the words that come before, after, or both, as the primary focus of what has been said regarding the subject. They can also be used to exclude words and verses that are not relevant to the subject.

Examples

Part of a verse has been used.

... God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good ...
Genesis 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

Isaiah 29:16 says, “Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: ...” **No one particularly likes to go through trials or sudden changes that change the course of their life, turning everything upside down. You may be making plans for your life and then something in your life happens, changing everything.**

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding? **Isaiah 29:16**

The three dots ... are also used when not all the verses are required.

Verse 36 is not there so the ... three dots replace it, showing that another verse or verses go in-between the given reading.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... **Nay**, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **For I am persuaded**, that neither death, **nor** life, **nor** angels, **nor** principalities, **nor** powers, **nor** things present, **nor** things to come, **Nor** height, **nor** depth, **nor** any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** **Romans 8:35, 37-39**

Why Study the Word of God?

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. **Psalms 119:11**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:6**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. **2 Peter 1:19-21**

For even Christ pleased not himself; **but, as it is written**, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. **For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.** **Romans 15:3-4**

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. **Psalms 19:7-14**

... O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. [Psalms 119:97-104](#)

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. [Psalms 19:7-8](#)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. [Psalms 119:105](#)

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. [Psalms 119:130](#)

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. [Psalms 119:133](#)

Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. [Psalms 119:137](#)

Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful. [Psalms 119:138](#)

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. [Psalms 119:140](#)

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. [Psalms 119:160](#)

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: [Proverbs 6:20-23](#)

The Bible contains that which will make the Christian strong in spirit and intellect. The psalmist says, "**The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.**" **The Bible is a wonderful book.** It is a history that opens up to us the past centuries. Without the Bible we should have been left to conjectures and fables in regard to the occurrences

of past ages. **It is a prophecy that unveils the future. It is the Word of God, unfolding to us the plan of salvation, pointing out the way by which we may escape eternal death and gain eternal life.** It gives not only the history of this world, but a description of the world to come. **It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe; it reveals to our understanding the character of the Author of the heavens and the earth. In it is the revelation of God to man.** {BEcho, October 1, 1892 par. 5}

The searching of all books of philosophy and science **cannot do** for the mind and morals **what Bible study can do, if it is made practical.** He who studies the Bible holds converse with patriarchs and prophets. He comes in contact with truth clothed in elevated language, which exerts a fascinating power over the mind, and lifts the thoughts from the things of earth to the glory of the future, immortal life. What wisdom of man can compare with the revelation of the grandeur of God? Finite man, who knows not God, seeks to lessen the value of the Scriptures, claiming that his supposed knowledge of science will not harmonize with the Word of God; but **the divine Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.** {BEcho, October 1, 1892 par. 6}

The Holy Scriptures testify of Jesus. They are the Spirit of Prophecy. It should be the only Book we deeply study, that we may say "It Is Written" as Jesus had done. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. [Matthew 4:4.](#) Which Jesus quoted [Deuteronomy 8:3.](#) Read it for yourself and see how knowing the scriptures helped Jesus to stand strong with the word.

[The Angel said to John](#) ... I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: **for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.** [Revelation 19:10](#)

[Jesus said](#), "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.**" [John 5:39](#)

I do not ask you to take my words. Lay Sister White to one side. Do not quote my words again as long as you live until you can obey the Bible. When you **make the Bible your food, your meat and your drink, when you make its principles the elements of your character, you will know better how to receive counsel from God.** I exalt the precious Word before

you today. Do not repeat what I have said, saying, "Sister White said this," and "Sister White said that." **Find out what the Lord God of Israel says, and then do what He commands. Christ said, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me."** {13MR 200.1}

It is not emotion that we need, but **a living faith in the living word of a living Saviour, a Saviour who proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, "I am the resurrection and the life."** He wants us to live His principles. But there are those in positions of responsibility who do not appreciate these principles. They have been tested and tried. ... {13MR 249.1}

I have been writing upon the first volume of Great Controversy, and it makes me feel very solemn as I review these important subjects--creation and the events from the fall of Satan to the fall of Adam. The Lord seems very near me as I write, and I am deeply moved as I contemplate this controversy (page 573) from the beginning to the present time. The workings of the powers of darkness are laid clearly before my mind. Most trying times are before us; and Satan, clad in angel robes, will come to souls with his temptations as he came to Christ in the wilderness. He will quote Scripture; and **unless our life is hid with Christ in God**, he will surely bind our souls in unbelief. {5T 572.3}

Time is very short, and all that is to be done must be done quickly. The angels are holding the four winds, and Satan is taking advantage of everyone **who is not fully established in the truth.** Every soul is to be tested. Every defect in the character, **unless it is overcome by the help of God's Spirit**, will become a sure means of destruction. I feel as never before the necessity **for our people to be energized by the spirit of the truth**, for Satan's devices will ensnare every soul who has not made God his strength. The Lord has much work to be done; and if we do what He has appointed for us to do, He will work with our efforts. {5T 573.1}

The Bible Our Creed

When God's Word is studied, comprehended, and obeyed, a bright light will be reflected to the world; new truths, received and acted upon, will bind us in strong bonds to Jesus. **The Bible, and the Bible alone, is to be our creed, the sole bond of union;** all who bow to this Holy Word will be in

harmony. Our own views and ideas must not control our efforts. Man is fallible, but God's Word is infallible. Instead of wrangling with one another, let men exalt the Lord. Let us meet all opposition as did our Master, saying, "It is written." Let us lift up the banner on which is inscribed, The Bible our rule of faith and discipline.-- The Review and Herald, Dec. 15, 1885. {1SM 416.2}

Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and **his spirit it hath gathered them. Isaiah 34:16**

Jesus said, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**" John 17:15-17

The Bible the Most Important Book ...

The Bible is the revelation of God to our world, telling us of the character we must have in order to reach the paradise of God. We are to esteem it as God's disclosure to us of eternal things,-- the things of most consequence for us to know. By the world it is thrown aside, as if the perusal of it were finished, but a thousand years of research would not exhaust the hidden treasure it contains. Eternity alone will disclose the wisdom of this book. The jewels buried in it are inexhaustible; for it is the wisdom of an infinite mind. {SpTEd Chapter16 page 147.1}

How to study the word of God

Prayerful Study

We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures, and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet **we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner.** Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. **We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of**

science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God, and a sincere desire to learn His will. **We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM.** Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth. {CSW 37.3}

Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ. One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness. {CSW 38.1}

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." **Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity, they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed.** -TSS 121, 122. {CSW 38.2}

Always pray in the name of Jesus

Jesus said, "And **whatsoever ye shall ask in my name**, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.** If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." [John 14:13-17](#). And He said "... that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father **in my name**, he may give it you." [John 15:16](#) "... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father **in my**

name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father. At that day **ye shall ask in my name**: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. [John 16:23-27](#)

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: **how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?** [Luke 11:9-13](#)

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; **Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. [Ephesians 5:19-21](#)

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [Philippians 2:10-11](#)

As we have just read from the words of scripture, when we ask of God, that is, pray to God, we must ask in Jesus' name. We ask of God, and even praise Him in Jesus' name.

Jesus not only taught us to ask of the Father in His name, but He also taught the way we should pray. In [Matthew 6:9-13](#) Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Let us walk though this prayer in Matthew 6:9-13

After this manner therefore pray ye: This is very important to know; that Jesus said, “after this manner therefore pray ye”. He did not say, this is what you should pray word for word. Prayer is from the heart. From our heart to our Loving Father in Heaven. Our needs and hearts love for our God is going to be different to any other. Jesus gives us the guidelines on how to pray; yet, does not tell us what we need to say word for word.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Acknowledgement of who God is, where he is and that we know He is Holy, and His name is Holy.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Acknowledgement of His Promise and submitting of ourselves to His will; not only on earth, but also in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. Asking for spiritual and physical food; we need spiritual food as much as we need physical food.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Asking for forgiveness of our sins, as we forgive others who have sinned against us. Which makes forgiving others that have wronged us so important, as we want God to forgive us of our wrongs and sins.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: Asking God to keep us from the tempters hands and to deliver us from him or whoever or whatever the tempter uses to tempt us with to sin and do evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Acknowledgement that everything belongs to God and is in His care. Which then brings us to the acknowledgement of His Power and Glory.

Amen.” Then the closing of your prayer, Remember the closing if you want your prayer to be granted, you ask in Jesus’ name.

An example of prayer before studying God’s Word.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessed nights rest and for giving us this new day. Dear Father, please guide me and fill me with Thy Holy Spirit today and this morning through study of Thy Word, that I may see Thy will and know Thy way. Please lead me to the blessed treasures you have for me to learn and grow in You; that I may also share with others. Please bless our loved ones that they too may know Thee in all Thy ways. I pray and ask these things in Jesus Holy Name. Amen.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. [Jeremiah 33:3](#)

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own, **"Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."** ... {CSW 38.2}

Prayerfully read the following.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Psalms 119:18

For an explanation on how to study the word of God, we will read Isaiah 28:9-14.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and

snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. [Isaiah 28:9-14](#)

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. [Deuteronomy 29:29](#)

Reading the bible from end to end, especially in chronological order will give you a good foundation to build upon. You will also learn about the history of the world, how events occurred over time and forthcoming future events. However, God requires us to go deeper into His Word, to gain a greater knowledge of the scriptures, and discover the gems, treasures and promises of His Word, “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” This is how these studies are constructed.

Precept means - From H6680; an injunction: - commandment, precept. H6680 = A primitive root; (intensively) to constitute, enjoin: - appoint, (for-) bid. (give a) charge, (give a, give in, send with) command (-er, ment), send a messenger, put, (set) in order.
(Strong’s Concordance)

Precept; noun

a rule or principle for action
a guide or rule for morals; maxim
a direction, esp for a technical operation
(Collins Online Dictionary)

As you read the following examples you will see how the “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” works in the word of God.

[Isaiah 51:7](#) God teaches us, “Hearken unto me ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.” With God’s Word and not man’s, He will lead us into His truth. By following the rule of [Isaiah 28:9-14](#), when studying the word of God and calling upon God himself for guidance, he will lead us to

the gems, treasures and promises of His word. For He has said in [Jeremiah 33:3](#), “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

Remembering to ask in Jesus’ name, as Jesus tells us to do so in [John 14:13, 14](#), And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. Remembering we are to ask “thy will be done” [Matthew 6:9-13](#).

By following the [Isaiah 28:9-14](#) we get the understanding that in prophecy, the woman equals a church, because [Jeremiah 6:2](#) says, I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman. And [Isaiah 51:16](#) reads, ... and say unto Zion, Thou art my people. By follow “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” just by these two verses, it is made manifest – which means, it is obviously clear by sight and or mind that Zion is likened as a comely woman and Zion is God’s people and that God’s people is likened as a woman. The church in the bible is not a building, but a group of people. Note [Acts 5:11](#), And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. Again, in [Acts 12:5](#), Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. Fear and prayer can only be from people, not a building. Therefore, we understand that a woman equals a church, and The Church represents God’s people. However, a woman can also represent a church not belonging to God. Note [Revelation 17:2](#).

It is through the study of God’s word, the scriptures, following this rule of “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” with the leading of His Holy Spirit, that the people of God were able to understand the prophecies relevant to their time. Although not all prophecy has been fully and completely understood, God is still revealing His Word and giving understanding to His people that seek and search His Word.

In baptismal or Bible studies, given by God’s people in The Faith; they would have used studies that were written following this very rule. Subjects like, the Sabbath, the promise of Christ, clean and unclean meats and foods, death, and so on. They all should be written using this rule. Without this rule we

will err from the truth God has for us. However, using this principle of “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” that God set out for us is the only safe way to find truth on a subject in the word of God. It will not contradict itself because the rule only builds on the truth of God’s Word. Following this rule will never take away from God’s Commandments or Word; nor will it add to them. Yet, it will build up and strengthen truth, giving you a solid foundation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read the following verses that teach where our understanding of the Word comes from.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter. [Daniel 2:19-23](#)

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

[1 Corinthians 2:7-13](#)

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. [John 14:23 & 26](#)

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [John 15:26](#)

Jesus Said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” [John 5:39](#)

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. [Jeremiah 29:13](#)

For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live: [Amos 5:4](#)

To seek A primitive root; to search out (by any method; specifically, in worship or prayer); by implication to strive after: - ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek (for).

To search A primitive root; properly to tread or frequent; usually to follow (for pursuit or search); by implication to seek or ask; specifically to worship: - ask, X at all, care for, X diligently, inquire, make inquisition, [necro-] mancer, question, require, search, seek [for, out], X surely.

(Strong’s Concordance)

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. [Jeremiah 33:3](#)

When is the best time to seek and search the Scriptures?

Arise and Eat!

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

We eat food, drink water, and exercise to give our physical body strength, energy, and health. We also need to eat and drink and exercise God's Word for Spiritual strength, energy, and health. We need the sun to get vitamin D which helps us to receive other vitamins into our bodies that we get from the food we eat. In the same way we need the Son of God for us to receive the Holy Spirit and the deep things of God when we study/eat His blessed Word. To know God and His blessed Son is salvation/eternal life. "These words spake Jesus...this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:1-3

To know someone, we need to spend time with them. Just knowledge along is not enough. To say I know God and believe in Him is not enough, for James 2:19 says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Also, Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..." And in Matthew 7:23 Jesus said, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Why would Jesus say this? If we read Matthew 7:21-23 we will see that Jesus said this to people who prayed and worked for Him in His name.

What is this "lack of knowledge" and "I never knew you" about if we believe in God and His Son Jesus? It's like food and water we know we need it to live, along with the air we breathe and sun that shines on us to receive even better strength and health. But just knowing about it will not give us life. We need to arise and eat; not once, but up to three times a day, every day, all our life, to stay alive.

Ok, we may go some days without food and survive, but not for too long. Death is not far away if you go without water; some can die in less than a day

in hot climates without water. With water we may last a little longer, but without food and water death is a sure thing after a few days. The longer you go without these essentials, the closer you are to death.

The same is with our Spiritual life. We need to arise and eat the Word of God. We need to have worship time with Him, talk with Him, walk with Him, every day of our lives, to live Spiritually; I mean really live, forever eternally with Him. Just like death is a sure thing without food and water; so is eternal death sure if we neglect our spiritual time with God. Sure, we may go a few days without it, but the more we do the more we die spiritually.

Job said, "My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:11, 12.

Jeremiah said, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16

To know God means to have a loving relationship with Him. "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD." Hosea 2:19-20. We cannot really obey the Lord unless we love Him first. Therefore, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

We should all know how important it is for a Christian to have faith. Paul tells us "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17. To have trust and faith in any one we need to hear them, talk with them. Taking special time to communicate and share our innersole/heart with them; over time trust, faith and love grows. The same is with God. He talks to us through His Word; we hear and respond with sharing our heart with Him in prayer. The more we know Him, the more we love Him, the more we love the more we will spend time with Him and obey Him.

God gave the children of Israel a wonderful object lesson for the best time to spend with Him through the gift of Manna. "And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it

melted. Exodus 16:21. If we wait too long by sleeping in or doing too many things before worship; the care and pressures of the day will get our attention before the Lord does. Do not let the manna melt! Exodus 16 is a great chapter to read as it contains a few lessons in it, lessons for our life in Christ.

Remember this; regardless of the things happening in our life, each day we need Him. We need to spend time with God in worship and prayer. Note! the busier we are, the more we have on our to do list, the more we need to make that time with Him, in worship and prayer. Even if we are not that busy, the more we need Him. It should be our main priority in starting our day; for it is God that leads us through each day. We will find God has supplied all our needs for the day, even giving us more than we ever asked for. He will carry us through. Even on the most difficult days He is with us, leading us and drawing you to Him, that He may carry our load and fill us with His Peace as we go about the day.

Jesus is our example. “Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And **early in the morning** he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.” John 8:1-2. **Again** “And **in the morning, rising up a great while before day**, he went out, and **departed into a solitary place**, and **there prayed**.” Mark 1:35. **We are told to**, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” **Philippians 2:5**

Other examples

Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways... **Isaiah 58:2**.

I love them that love me; and those that **seek me early shall find me**. **Proverbs 8:17**

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me **will I seek thee early**: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. **Isaiah 26:9**

And Abraham gat up **early in the morning** to the place where he stood before the LORD: **Genesis 19:27**

And they **rose up in the morning early**, and worshipped before the LORD, ... **1 Samuel 1:19**

Job ... rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings ... Job 1:5.

And all the people came **early in the morning** to him in the temple, for to hear him. **Luke 21:38**

But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. **Ephesians 5:13-17**

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. **Psalms 5:3**

We can Pray any time “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” **Psalms 55:17**. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; **Ephesians 6:18**. **However, personal time with God in the early morning is the best time for your beep study time with prayer. This is before the cares of the day take over. And early in the morning is the time to put our Godly armour on before we start the day's cares and toils, giving us great protection against the tempter's ways.**

Read **Ephesians 6:10-20**.

The following verses are a Spiritual call from God, for us to rise early and worship with Him. “I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.” **Song of Solomon 7:10-12**

After a night's sleep we rise and eat to refuel our bodies. Spiritual food is just as important and essential as physical food. However, if we are late for work or an appointment and we must choose between breakfast or personal one on one time with God, we should choose quiet time with Him. "Be still, and know that I am God: ..." Psalms 46:10. As important our break/fast is, it will not keep you from sin throughout the day, where God will. "My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; **I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.** Job 23:11-12.

In the wilderness after Jesus fasted 40 days, Satan came to tempt Him to turn the stone into bread "...Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written**, That man **shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.** Luke 4:4. And in the Lord's Prayer where it says, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11, should also apply to our Spiritual bread as much as our physical bread.

May God help you all and help me. I want help and strength and power. But do not quote Sister White till you stand on vantage ground, where you know what you are doing. **Take the word of God. It is full of meat and drink. Study the Bible, and you will know more of God than you do now...** (Talk in Battle Creek College Library, April 1, 1901.)

I do not ask you to take my words. Lay Sister White to one side. Do not quote my words again as long as you live **until you can obey the Bible.** When you make the Bible your food, your meat and your drink, when you make its principles the elements of your character, you will know better how to receive counsel from God. I exalt the precious Word before you today. Do not repeat what I have said, saying, "Sister White said this," and "Sister White said that." **Find out what the Lord God of Israel says, and then do what He commands. Christ said, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me."** {13MR 200.1}

Read John 4:1-42. It's a wonderful reading full of lessons where physical and Spiritual food/water come together and the Spiritual is the one that is received, and Jesus is strengthened. Take note of John 4:13-14, 31-32.

Please read Exodus 14:21-25, just a small reading when the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. It has a gem that is important for us to know. Read it

and then write down what the gem is regarding what happens in the morning watch.

The Gem that I hope you found was in verse 24 of Exodus 14. As we know the Lord lead the Children of Israel, after leaving Egypt, by day with the cloud and by night with the pillar of fire. However, it is in the morning watch that the cloud and pillar of fire come together as the light of day approaches. Spiritually this is the double strength of the Holy Spirit. The cloud is made up of water and we know that water is another word for the Holy Spirit. This is the same with fire. It is in the morning watch when we receive that blessed gift of the double strength of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us The Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, to comfort, to guide and lead us, to give us Peace on earth till He returns. See Acts 1: 4-8; John 15:26; 16:13, 14; 14:26. We may not see the Cloud, or the Pillar of Fire, as the Children of Israel did. However, The Holy Spirit is there and when we ask of God, for He promises to give the Holy Spirit to those that ask of Him, He will give His Holy Spirit freely to us. See Luke 11:13

Water = Holy Spirit

Read John 7:37-39; Isaiah 44:3; Numbers 11:25

Fire = Holy Spirit

Read Acts 2:1-4; Revelation 4:5

And as he (Elijah) lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. 1 Kings 19:5-8

As the angel of the Lord came to Elijah and said, “Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee” 1 Kings 19:5-8. We need to pray God every night, in Jesus’ name, for the Holy Spirit, the still small voice, to call upon us to arise and eat early in the morning where the pillar of Fire by night and the Cloud by day, the double portion of the Holy Spirit is, because the journey is too great for us to go through the day without Spiritual food and worship time with God.

The physical food in the scripture of 1 Kings 19:5-8, is also an object lesson for the spiritual food we need to eat. The Bible has many literal stories that have spiritual lessons we call object lessons. Christ gave object lessons to the people of His time on earth written throughout the gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We have many an object lessons around us that we can draw a spiritual lesson from.

One object lesson I’ll share of a weed no one seems to know the name of. This weed looks like grass, that, when it grows in amongst the good grass, you can barely tell the difference. But when it starts to put its seeds out you know it is the weed. The seedhead is like a wheat head with many seeds on it, but the seeds have very spiky prickles like a bur. To let one seedhead fall to the ground you will end up with an infestation of the weed in no time. The only way to rid of this weed is to study the good grass, so when you see the weed you know of it by the way it slightly grows different to the good grass. That’s when you need to pull it out of the ground or just as the seeds come through. A Bible verse comes to mind, Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Matthew 7:20. Sin is the same way. If you let one sin grow, the more other sins appear. The more we spend time in the Word, the more we can see the sin in our life. The need to rid that sin is so important. The Bible tells us that, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12. That’s way we need to spend time in the Word of God daily. Spending time with God daily, will change us, we will become more like Him. The scriptures say, But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (meaning mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18. (Strong’s Concordance)

There may come a time where we are unable to read the Word of God due to some event that may stop us from having the scriptures with us. So, the more we put scriptures into our hearts and minds now in the times of peace, the more the Holy Spirit can bring to our mind the remembrance of the scriptures to comfort us in times of trouble.

... Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee ...

1 Kings 19:5-8

Pray to God now.

Dear Heavenly Father I pray for the Holy Spirit, your still small voice, to call upon me to arise and eat early in the morning every day, because the journey of life is too great for me to go without Spiritual worship time with You, Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

I pray for the will of God to be with all those that use these studies in worship time with Him; that all will be truly blessed and gain a growing, closer, walk with Him. God be with you all, blessing you all with His Holy Spirit in His Son’s blessed name, Jesus Christ our Lord, and Saviour.