

Attitude to the bible

“Renewal of mind begins with reading and mediation on the Scriptures.” — *Lailah Gifty Akita, Think Great: Be Great!*

Dennis was a sixteen year old SS one student in a burden school. He was a pastor's son who only went to church for that reason. He never really gave time to studying the bible and praying to God, which is, maintaining a steady and progressive private devotional life. Although he was a multitalented instrumentalist in the church like many other pastors' children, he was unfruitful to God, and struggled with many secret sins and bad habits, because of the insufficient content of God's word in him. On one of the holidays, he came home as usual from school. After some days, his mother became unusually concerned about her son's spiritual status, perhaps she's been praying about it for a while, and now had to add a little work necessary to establish her prayers of faith. She called Dennis and asked, "When will you begin to study the bible and pray like your elder brother is always doing?" That question was never answered verbally, but by the expected actions. It sank into the heart of Dennis like the drop of ink into a clean glass of water. The Holy Spirit magnified the quest in the heart of Dennis, and that became the beginning of his journey with the Lord. He soon began to see the need more than he's ever done. He became an intentional chaser of the knowledge of God, attending insightful and impactful Christian meetings he saw to be relevant to his spiritual life. And had continued like that with increasing effort. Dennis grew up into a good measure of spiritual stature; he's now a true minister of the gospel.

Beloved Christian teenager, attending weekly or daily church activities is not all there is to your growth. God promises to teach anyone who will humbly come before him to learn (Ps. 32:8). He has also put a teacher (Holy Spirit) in every child of his, to remind them of what he's taught them before, and also teach them new things that reveal the truths about Christ (John 14:15, 26, 13-15). The Holy Spirit is the teacher whom Christ has sent into the heart of all his believers; he is to reveal the truths about Christ and the will of God to them as they learn through the study of the bible. He teaches Christians who come to him with ready hearts, open to learn, all about Christ that they must know of God.

Change your attitude towards the reading, studying and meditating of the word of God. How much value you place on the word of God determines how much priority you give to the study of it. You need to keep knowing that the word of God is the source of your new life; it is your life itself. When you take fish out of the water environment, it may not survive the waterless environment for so long, it will surely die. If you separate yourself from the word of God now that you are a teenager, it means you are never going to make it in life as a Christian, especially when it comes to the fulfillment of your purpose for existing here on earth.

“The full description of your essence of living is placed in the word of God. It means if you do not know the word of God for yourself, you’ll never know how to explore the blessings of God kept in Christ for you.”

Joshua, Moses’ successor was admonished to keep reading the book of the Law, which means the bible for us today. He was to study/meditate on it in the day and at night, obeying everything written in it, and then he and the people of God will have good success, and be able to possess the land God had given them (Josh. 1:8). Ezra devoted his entire life to reading and studying the Law of God, obeying it and teaching it’s truth to all Israel (Ezra 7:10). David gave himself to the Law of God from teenage. He wrote an entire chapter in the book of Psalm, telling of his commitment to the word of God (119). Paul admonished Timothy to study the scripture so well, that he might be able to divide, breaking it down correctly for other people to be able to listen to him and be edified (2 Tim. 2:15). Jesus himself throughout his ministry showed signs of great learning that had taken place in his youth. Severally he responded to questions saying, **“It is written...”** or **“have you not read?”** Many times he proved to his contemporaries that he was not alien to the Old Testament scriptures. Moses made the Israelites understood that the word of God was their very life: **“When Moses had finished reciting all these words to the people of Israel, he added: “Take to heart all the words of warning I have given you today. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of these instructions. These instructions are not empty words—they are your life! By obeying them you will enjoy a long life in the land you will occupy when you cross the Jordan River.””** (Deut. 32:45-47 NLT); they must not keep it out of sight: **“Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them** wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. **Tie them** on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.” Deut. 6:6-9 MSG.

Jesus concludes by saying, those who are truly his disciples are those who obey his words and teachings. He is glad when we remain in his word, and continues therein. That is what will make his followers know all the truths that have been kept in the scripture, to show them how complete Christ’s worked out freedom has come to all believing and obedient followers of Jesus Christ.

“Dear Christian teenager, your knowledge of God is proportional to the degree of quality attention you give to your personal fellowship altar with Christ, where you read, study, meditate and pray with the word of the Lord exposed to you.”

Satan will never want you to see the provision for your freedom, therefore he will fight you every day *with much work in the day, and stress or tiredness at night.* He will keep you busy

with many other things, such as, cooking, chatting, getting entertained, going on business trips, and making a lot of official journeys with a large sum as travel allowance (this is mostly found with adult believers), academic pursuits, etc. The world system is designed in a way it can keep its allies busy with 'necessary-looking activities', including preaching and other works of God. But as a Christian teenager, God expects you to fight all needless distractions. Design a systematic bible study plan for yourself, use it personally or get involved in a bible study group with your friends and peers. *A walk with God en route personal bible studies is better and possible.*

Three Benefits you Derive from habitually studying/meditating on the word of God:

- 1. You'll be knowing God and increasing in strength in all areas for you to be able to "do" reasonable impacts, by fulfilling God's purpose for giving you life;**

"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Dan. 11:32 NKJV

- 2. You're sure to keep recording good successes in all that you do in life, according to the will of the Lord;**

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Dan. 11:32 KJV

- 3. You'll be known to Christ as his disciple here on earth, and you'll always be with him in heaven.**

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." John 8:31 NKJV

Bible reading habits:

- Pray for a hunger for God's Word
- Set a definite time
- Read consecutively
- Turn your heart to the Lord
- Pray over what you read
- Keep track of your Bible reading
- Guard against distractions

(Bibles for America)