



Now What? - Day 2

The Bible

Now that you've begun this new relationship you may be wondering how you can know what God wants you to do. God reveals Himself to us through His Word, the Bible. He also shapes our hearts and lives through His Word. As you begin this new relationship with God, the best way to get to know Him is to read His word to you.

Before we talk about a great way to begin to read the bible, it's important to understand more about what the Bible is...

1. The Bible is **GOD'S WORD**. What sets the Bible apart from every other book that has ever been written is that it is ultimately authored by God himself. All other books have their origin in the human heart and mind, but the Bible is the product of the mind and heart of God.
2. The Bible teaches us what is **TRUE**. The only way we can know what is true and what's false is if we have an objective standard of truth. The Bible is our standard of truth.
3. The Bible is our **ROADMAP**. Human beings have a tendency to get lost. It's why we invented maps, and why we have **GPS**. The Bible is like our spiritual **GPS**, when we start going our own way, wandering down the wrong path in life the Bible can reveal to us where we went wrong and teach us how to get back on track.
4. The Bible is our **TRAINER**. The Bible works like a trainer for the Christian life. It coaches us, guides us, and gives us the knowledge we need to live out God's way in God's world. The Bible helps us get spiritually "fit."

The Bible is all these things and so much more. It's the most remarkable work of literature ever compiled. It's the best selling book of all time. It has been a source of inspiration, guidance, and truth for people from all areas of the world for centuries. It is living and active. It contains wisdom for how to live life and live it to the full. It has the power to change us from the inside out. But the only way we can discover any of this is if we open it up and get into the scriptures and allow the scriptures to get into us.

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalms 119:105

A really easy, practical way that you can read God's Word and engage in a passage of scripture or a verse is the practice of the SOAP Method...

- **SOAP** stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer
- This method allows you to dig into God's Word in a way that is doable for any of us
- You don't have to remember a ton of steps or concepts, just **S-O-A-P**.

Here's how you start...

S - Scripture

- First, you find a verse or passage of scripture and you read it.
- After you've read it, maybe take a couple of minutes to literally write out the verse that you have read.
- You could write out the verse or verses in a journal or notebook.
- You want to take the time to do this because it helps us understand the scripture and focus on it if we see it written out.
- When we write it out, it also makes it easier if we want to go back and look at what we've read and learned.
- This is also a great step towards memorizing the verse or passage. This is important because there may be times in your life when you're going through a challenging time, and God will remind you of a verse you've memorized to help you during that time

O - Observation

- What did you notice? What jumped out at you? What seems important?
- How did Jesus respond to these people who mocked him? Why did he respond with that question?
- What details in this passage matter?
- What is the theme of the passage or verse? What are the words that repeat or stick out to you?
- Make note of those observations and write them down.

A - Application

- How is this verse relative to my life?
- Or more specifically, how can I live out what I have read.
- The Bible isn't about information, but it's all about transformation.
- How will I apply this verse to my life that it **TRANSFORMS** me?
- If I read a verse that tells me to "love my enemies" and walk away and do nothing, I have missed the point, right?
- But, if I apply this verse to my life, I can ask myself - Who do I need to love so that I can live out the truth of God's word and be more like Jesus?
- Don't forget to write down your application.

P - Prayer

- Pray over the verses you have read, and make it specific.
- If the Lord has revealed something through the scripture, then ask the Lord that the truth you read will become evident in your life.
- That He will give you the strength and might to be obedient to His Word.
- Take the time to write out your prayer.
- This will help you to focus, instead of getting interrupted in your prayer with a "squirrel," moment.
- When we write out our prayer, we can go back to it and see what God taught us or even see how God answered our prayers over time.

So, are you ready? Let's try to SOAP together!

Example:

S - Scripture

- Psalm 46:10- "Be still and know that I am God."

O - Observation

- Two commands in this verse- "be still" & "know"
- It goes in that order- 1st- be still, & THEN you will know

A - Application

- In our world today we're constantly going, constantly stimulated by something- thinking, listening, talking, moving, filling our minds with something, that there are times that we're not still. In fact most of the time we're not still.
- And it's hard for us to really know that God is God when we're **NOT** still.
- But when we are still, that's when we can hear His voice, meditate on who He is, and remember His purpose.

P - Prayer

- "God, help me to be still. Help me to be still in order to know and remember who you are."Let my focus be on you, and only you. I want to hear you when I am still, so still my heart, my mind, and show me things about who you are that I would **MISS** if I was not still. Draw me closer to you in the stillness. In your name, amen.

That was it...great job! In our relationship with Jesus, it's key to make time to be in the Bible every day.

Tips to help you do that:

1. Pick a time
2. Pick a place
3. Pick a plan
4. Start today - A great place to start reading is the Book of John. You can download the YouVersion Bible app on your smartphone.