

THE MEDITATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sunday, May 6, 2018

TEXT: Joshua 1:8-9: Psalms 119:148

INTRODUCTION:

As Christians many of us read our Bibles and pray, but are we meditating on God's Word?

When the Lord called Joshua to lead Israel after Moses' death, He told him, "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."

The Lord wanted to fill Joshua's heart with the Word so he would know precisely what to do and how to lead the people according to God's standards and commands.

And that's exactly what He wants to do in our lives as well. If we'll meditate on Scripture, the Lord will unfold for us His truths and instructions.

MEDITATION INVOLVES THREE THINGS

You shut the world out. That means no television, phone calls, or other outside distractions.

You get alone with God. Meditation is not a group activity but a private time alone with the Lord.

You focus your attention on each passage of Scripture. This is not to be just a casual reading of God's Word before heading out the door, but a private conversation with the Lord.

EFFECTIVE MEDITATION HAS FOUR REQUIREMENTS

Priority. The devil will try to stop our efforts to focus on God's Word because he knows we are absorbing it into our spirit.

Place. We need a private place to meet alone with God.

Purpose. The purpose of meditation is to get a better understanding of the Word so we can better apply it to our lives.

Plan. We must set aside a time to meet with the Lord privately to read, study and meditate on His Word.

MEDITATION INCLUDES THREE STEPS

Using **James 1:1-4** as an example, we can learn how to meditate on a passage of Scripture by following three steps.

OBSERVATION. Begin by asking these questions: Who is the writer? To whom is he writing? What is the passage saying?

Verse 1 says the letter was written by James, who was believed to be Jesus' half-brother. He wrote to the twelve tribes who were dispersed abroad.

Although these people lived a long time ago, the Scripture was written for every generation, including ours. James gave clear instructions regarding what God desires to accomplish through our trials and how we should respond to them.

INTERPRETATION. What does the passage mean, and what can we learn from it?

Verse 2, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials."

In the midst of trials and difficulties, we want them to go away, but James says, we are to count it all joy, not because we enjoy the experience but because we know God promises to walk through it with us. Our joy is in the Lord, not in the situation.

Verse 3, "Knowing that the trying of your faith works patience."

The reason we can have joy in trials is because of what we know to be true. This is how we become strong and grow in patience and endurance.

Verse 4, "And let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

God has a perfect result in mind—that we may be perfect and complete. The word *perfect* does not mean sinless but complete, strong, and mature.

APPLICATION. Through meditation the Word of God becomes a part of us and gives us understanding of the Word and how to apply it to our life.

It gives us a God perspective of what we are going through and a confidence to face life's trials and temptations.

The trials of life will reveal our weaknesses and give us opportunity to apply the Word of God to our life that we may grow and mature into what He wants us to be.

CONCLUSION:

Meditation is a gratifying and rewarding experience that increases our relationship with the Lord and our understanding of the Bible as we hear God speak to us personally through His Word.

God has also given us His indwelling Holy Spirit who enables us to interpret Scripture rightly and empowers us to apply it to our lives.