BACK TO THE BASICS · PART THREE

How Do I Read the Bible?

"They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

ACTS 17:11

III

The Berean Posture

Many people who are new to faith carry honest questions about reading the Bible: How do I begin? How do I know I am understanding it correctly? The Bereans show us that the first step is not a method. It is a posture. They came to Scripture with readiness of mind, consistently, and they searched carefully. That posture, open, consistent, and careful, is the foundation of reading the Bible well.

> **KEY INSIGHT**
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> *The goal is not to have read the Bible. It is to hear from the God who speaks through it. One paragraph read carefully is worth more than three chapters read quickly.*

The Three Questions

Ask these in order after reading any passage:

1	**What does this reveal about God?** Begin here — before asking what the passage means for your life. Every passage discloses something about who God is, what He values, or how He acts.
2	**What does this reveal about me?** Scripture surfaces things we would not otherwise see. Do not skip this when the answer is uncomfortable — that discomfort is often where the most important work happens.
3	**What does this ask of me?** Every reading should produce some response — a change in thinking, an action, a prayer, a conversation. Ask what the passage requires before you close it.

The article says to read with expectation, not obligation. What has Bible reading felt like for you lately — duty or conversation? What would change if you came expecting God to speak?

Try the three questions right now on Acts 17:10–12. What does it reveal about God? About you? What does it ask of you?

The article closes by saying the goal is not to have read the Bible, but to encounter the God who speaks through it and walk away changed. What would it mean for you to come to Scripture expecting that kind of encounter?

Lord,

I open this book not to perform a duty, but because I want to hear You speak.

I confess that I have sometimes come to Scripture looking to confirm what I already believe rather than to encounter what I do not yet know. Forgive that in me. Open my eyes to see the wondrous things already in Your law.

Teach me to read slowly. Teach me to ask the right questions — not only what this means, but who You are revealing Yourself to be, what You are showing me about myself, and what You are asking me to do.

Do not let Your word simply pass through me. Let it find a place to work. Let it stay with me through the day, doing what only Your word can do.

AMEN.

WRITE YOUR OWN PRAYER

THIS WEEK

1. **One paragraph, read twice.** Choose one paragraph from Mark 1. Read it once normally, once aloud and slowly. Apply the three questions. Write down one sentence to carry through the day.

2. **Pray Psalm 119:18 before you read.** "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Just that one sentence, before you open Scripture each day this week.

3. **Tell someone what you read.** After one reading this week, tell one person what you found — two sentences. The act of putting it into words reveals what you understood and what you did not.