

How is God's Word to be read and heard?

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation (NASB; 1 Pet. 2:1-2).

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law (NASB; Ps. 119:18).

Prov. 2:1-5

For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard (NASB; Heb. 4:2).

God's Word is to be read and heard with preparation, prayer, and diligence. It is to be received with faith and love. It is to be laid up in our hearts and practiced in our lives.

(Adapted from *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Q. 90.)



*It is to be read and heard with preparation,
prayer, and diligence.*



Preparation:

Heart
Head



Preparation:

Heart



Preparation:

Heart

“Putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).



Preparation:

Head



Prayer:



If you study the original, consult the commentaries, and meditate deeply, yet if you neglect to cry mightily unto the Spirit of God your study will not profit you;

**--C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*,
“The Holy Spirit in Connection with Our
Ministry.”**

... but even if you are debarred the use of helps (which I trust you will not be), if you wait upon the Holy Ghost in simple dependence upon his teaching, you will lay hold of very much of the divine meaning.

--C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*,
“The Holy Spirit in Connection with Our
Ministry.”

Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119



Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

--119:18



Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

Teach me Your statutes

Psalm 119:12b, 26, 64, 68, 124, 135



Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

**Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your
statutes Psalm 119:33a**



Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

**Give me understanding, that I may learn
Your commandments Psalm 119:73**



Prayer:

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

**Give me understanding, that I may learn
Your commandments Psalm 119:73**



Preparation:

Prayer

Find your prayers in Psalm 119

Let my cry come before You, O LORD;
Give me understanding according to Your
word Psalm 119:169



I experience that the word of God is *living, active, sharp, and piercing* (Hebrews 4:12).

I experience the profitabilities specified in II Timothy 3:16.

I experience the effects specified in Psalm 19:7-10

... my soul has been *restored*. . . I have been made *wise*. . . my heart *rejoices*. . . my eyes *enlightened*. . . the Scripture seems to me *more desirable than gold*. . . *sweeter also than honey*.

Diligence:



Diligence:

Blessed is the man who listens to me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts (Proverbs 8:34).



Diligence:

Proverbs 2:3-4



Diligence:

Proverbs 2:3-4

v. 3 Prayer



Diligence:

Proverbs 2:3-4

v. 3 Prayer

v. 4 Diligence



In his exposition of the Shorter Catechism, Alexander Whyte encouraged *diligence* in reading and hearing the Word of God by quoting Jonathan Edwards' experience that revival was a new attentiveness to religion.

The name familiarly given by the people of New England to revivals of religion— “a religious attention” . . . “a general attention to religion”—indicates their nature . . . A revival of religion is nothing but the immediate result of an uncommon attention (Jonathan Edwards).