Things We Need To Do With The Word Of God

Intro: God has by His power given us His word.
1. The Bible is God’s Word.
   a. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
   b. 2 Pet. 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”
2. What should we do with that Word?

I. We Need To Listen To The Word.
   A. Faith is necessary to please God.
      1. Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
      2. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   B. Faith is only produced by hearing God’s Word.
      1. The Holy Spirit will not come into our hearts giving us faith.
      2. Faith is not the result of prayer.
      3. Luke 8:12 “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”
      4. Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”
      5. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   C. Thus, all men need to listen to the Word of God.

II. We Need To Read The Word.
   A. Rev. 1:3 “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”
   B. For years preachers have encouraged daily Bible reading.
   C. We should read worthwhile material instead of frivolous material to fill our minds with good.
      1. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
      2. Matt. 15:18-20 “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”
   D. Reading is the first step in studying.

III. We Need To Study The Word.
   A. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
   B. Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
C. Takes work.
1. The ASV uses the phrase “give diligence” for the KJV “study”.
2. The word actually means, to make effort, labor.
3. While there are certain teachings within God’s Word that are easy to understand, it still takes work.

D. So we can understand God’s Word.
1. John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
2. Eph. 5:17 “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”
3. Only by a proper understanding of God’s Word can we live according to His will.
4. Only by living according to His will, can we be acceptable to Him.

IV. We Need To Memorize The Word.
A. Having God’s Word in our heart prevents sin.
1. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
2. This is how Jesus overcame sin; Mat. 4:1-11 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

B. So we will be prepared to always give answer; 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

C. Obstacles to memorizing God’s Word.
1. The “I cannot memorize” attitude.
2. Lack of effort.

V. We Need To Meditate On The Word.
A. What is meditation.
1. It is not the transcendental meditation of the oriental religions.
2. It is a dwelling upon, pondering, concentration upon, communing with oneself.

B. Upon what are we to meditate?
1. God’s Word.
   a. Jos. 1:8 “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.”
   b. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
   c. 1 Tim. 4:15 “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”
d. Psa. 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 148 “I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways....”
   23 Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes....
   48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes....
   78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts....
   148 Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.”

2. God’s Work; Psa. 143:5 “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.”

3. Our lives in comparison with God’s Word.
   a. 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
   b. Jam. 1:23-24 “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”

VI. WE NEED TO RESPECT THE WORD.
A. Do not add anything to it.
   1. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
   2. Rev. 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”

B. Do not take anything away from it.
   1. Rev. 22:19 “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”
   2. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

C. Do not substitute anything for it.
   1. Matt. 15:3, 9 “But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
   2. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
   3. 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

D. Respect it enough to obey it.
   1. Jam. 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
   2. Rom. 2:13 “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”
   3. Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”
   4. If we love God we will obey Him.
      a. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
b. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

E. The result:
1. Proper thinking.
2. Proper speaking.
3. Proper action.
4. 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

VII. WE NEED TO TEACH THE WORD.
A. We are all to be teachers and preachers.
B. Teach the word to our children.
1. Deu. 6:6-7 “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”
2. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
3. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
4. Abraham is an example of one who taught his children; Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

C. Teach the word to a lost world.
1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
3. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
4. The early church is an example of what we should do; Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

Conclusion: God’s Word is valuable. Let us use it as God has directed. Only by the proper use of God’s Word will man be saved.