

How to Study the Bible

(Lesson 4)

Introduction:

1. To study the Bible effectively, developing certain learning skills is very helpful.
2. In this lesson we are considering 6 important factors that relate to learning: motivation, reaction, concentration, organization, comprehension, and repetition.
3. Before we examine these factors, let us note that . . .

Discussion:

- I. JESUS ILLUSTRATED THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING PROPER LEARNING SKILLS IN HIS PARABLE OF THE SOWER
 - A. (Matthew 13:3-9) Jesus presented His parable that He wants to be heard correctly.
 - B. (Matthew 13:18-23) Jesus explained His parable, showing that there are 4 kinds of hearers.
 - C. (Matthew 13:10-17) As Jesus explained why He taught with parables, He also revealed some important information that relates to learning.
 1. People who develop proper learning skills are able to understand God's will.
 2. However, people who fail to develop proper learning skills will not understand God's will.
 - D. (Luke 8:18a) Jesus cautioned His followers about hearing correctly.
 - E. Now that we are aware of the need for developing proper learning skills, let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. 6 FACTORS THAT RELATE TO LEARNING
 - A. "Motivation" relates to the desire to study Scripture (Psalm 119:18, 97).
 1. A conviction that the Bible is God's inspired Word should motivate us to want to study it.
 2. The blessings associated with doing God's will should motivate us to study the Scriptures (Psalm 119:11, 105).
 - B. "Reaction" has to do with the condition of the mind while studying.
 1. Being "*dull of hearing*" interferes with understanding God's will (Hebrews 5:11).
 2. However, hearing with "*readiness of mind*" enhances understanding (Acts 17:11).
 - C. "Concentration" relates to giving attention to the things that are studied (1 Timothy 4:13, 15).
 1. Certain surroundings and circumstances are conducive to effective study.
 2. However, distractions that interfere with study need to be avoided.
 - D. "Organization" in study is the ability to understand how individual sections of information relate to the main subject being covered (Matthew 1:1; John 20:30-31; Acts 1:8).
 - E. "Comprehension" has to do with the ability to understand information and express it in one's own words (Ephesians 5:17).
 - F. "Repetition" [regular review] improves the ability to retain information (2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2).