

As you read through the Bible, check off each book as you complete it .

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis	<input type="checkbox"/> Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew
<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke
<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes	<input type="checkbox"/> John
<input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Song of Solomon	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans
<input type="checkbox"/> Judges	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah	<input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations	<input type="checkbox"/> II Corinthians
<input type="checkbox"/> I Samuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians
<input type="checkbox"/> II Samuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians
<input type="checkbox"/> I Kings	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians
<input type="checkbox"/> II Kings	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> Colossians
<input type="checkbox"/> I Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos	<input type="checkbox"/> I Thessalonians
<input type="checkbox"/> II Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/> II Thessalonians
<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> I Timothy
<input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Micah	<input type="checkbox"/> II Timothy
<input type="checkbox"/> Esther	<input type="checkbox"/> Nahum	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus
<input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon
<input type="checkbox"/> Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews
<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/> James	<input type="checkbox"/> I Peter
<input type="checkbox"/> II Peter	<input type="checkbox"/> I John	<input type="checkbox"/> II John
<input type="checkbox"/> III John	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude	<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation

A BIBLE READING PLAN

Through the Bible in a Year

The simplest plan is to read one chapter in three different sections of the Bible each day. You would begin in Genesis, Job and Matthew respectively. These three sections are about the same length, so you finish them at the same time. The great advantage is the variety of material. If you set out to read the Bible through front to back, you may get bogged down in a place that is hard to understand or doesn't seem to speak to you.

When you read in a variety of places, your enjoyment, understanding and application is enhanced. This plan would take you through the Bible in just over a year.

Will you join me in reading through the Bible in 2012?

Pastor Jon

*"Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105*

Time alone with God

As you think about how you might begin to put into practice more consistent times alone with God, let me give you some practical advice.

Plan place and time.

I noticed years ago that the people who were strong in their daily relationship with God knew two things...

When they were spending time with the Lord, and **where** that would happen.

I remembered Daniel who prayed three times a day at a window facing Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10) and Jesus who awoke early in the morning and went to a desert place to pray (Mark 1:35). I have found if I identify time and place, time alone with God does not get lost in the business of life quite as easily.

Plan how you will use the time.

- Read or listen to The Word.
- Spend time in confession of sin, seeking a clean heart.
- Worship and bring thanks.
- Pray, giving any anxieties to the Lord.
(I often list praises and anxieties on a sheet of paper and then turn them to prayers.)

May 2012 be a year of strength and power, joy and purpose, growth and effectiveness, as you spend time alone with Him.

I have and will pray for your time alone with God!

Pastor Jon



*"I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect Your Word."
Psalm 119:16*

I recently reflected on what time alone with God means to me, why when neglected so much is lost, and why when pursued so much is gained. I want to encourage you to prioritize time alone with God.

Time alone with God is crucial! It is where you...

1. **Tap into your source of power!** Where will you find the strength to stay faithful and strong in 2012? Where will you find the strength to handle whatever this year may bring? In whose strength will you live and minister?

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 4:6

Without times of devotion where you tap into His infinite power (*Almighty*) you must rely on your own finite strength. Daily spiritual habits are vital to staying connected to Jesus, the power source of your life.

**Learn to tap into His power daily
and not rely on your own finite power!**

Pastor/Author John Ortberg compares our spiritual lives to boats and says... We are not power boats with lots of strength and need only to take the wheel and direct our lives and push the gas pedal to have power. We are not to be rafts that drift along with no power or direction. We are like sailboats with available power and direction but whose power and direction comes from outside ourselves. Time with God is us setting the sails to catch the Spirit's/wind's direction and power.

2. Tap into your source of purpose and joy.

"Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28

Without time alone with God, life goes from being filled with purpose and joy to grinding it out. In studying the book of Ephesians I have been reminded that everything I am and do must be anchored in who I am in Christ. It is in time alone with Him that I learn who I am, why I am; I remember life is about His glory and I am His child.

3. Tap into your source of growth and effectiveness.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

God grows us in two ways. One is by the struggles and suffering of this life. The other major growth path is time in The Word and prayer. The first of these ways is less effective without time alone with God, as time in His presence allows us to make sense out of the struggles we face and the setbacks we encounter in ministry. Time in His presence gives us the perspective from which to interpret life's difficulties. Time alone with God causes us to reframe our circumstances by His Sovereignty and not our own plans. We need constant input of truth as we face trials and hardships.