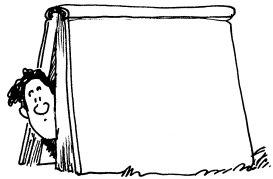
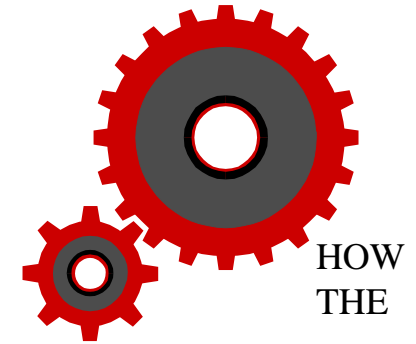


*Mark it
Meditate upon it
Memorize it
Be Mastered by it*

The study of the Bible must be “Applied Studies.” Academic study changes nothing. Academics can dissect things as coldly as an autopsy. In applied studies, it is the Bible that does the operation on us. Academics seldom gets beyond the head. The Word of God must reach our heart, for it is there and there alone, that the gears begin to turn and our lives can experience its power. The Bible is God's living Word and it works if we allow it to. In other words, when we really believe it, we will appreciate it and apply it. When we apply it, it works.



Get into your Bible



BIBLE WORKS

Ingimar DeRidder

There are seven questions to ask and one thing to do in order to see the Word of God work in our lives. The seven questions are:

1. Is there a timeless principle for me to grasp?

Learn to gently and reverently push the leaves aside to reach for the fruit. Principles are found in every book of the Bible. They are guidelines for living. They may be practiced in the first and last centuries alike. The fact that someone is wearing tunic or a robe is the practice, modesty and dignity is the principle. We no longer wear tunics, nor are we expected to, yet modesty is timeless and always in fashion. We may no longer make tents or sell camels, yet the principle of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is just as valid today as it was two thousand years ago.

2. Is there a sin for me to avoid, confess, or forsake?

Sin is the great spoiler still. God hates it because of what it does to us and how it ruins life. Sin is not always obvious. Satan did not ask Eve to “sin” in the garden. He came to her with what seemed to be pretty good idea at the time. The fact that the subtle suggestion was in direct opposition to God’s simple command seemed to be lost to Eve. God gave Adam one restriction and warned him of the consequence of ignoring his directions. Since that time the seeds of that disobedience have blown across the world upon evil winds and have taken root everywhere. God has written the Bible to warn us about sin and rescue us from its sorrows.

When it is obvious that we have transgressed, or violated one of God’s rules for happiness and

success, we are admonished to make it right without delay.

3. Is there a promise for me to claim?

The eye of faith sees them everywhere. The children of God are wealthy for the benevolence of God. Faith has its genesis in the garden of God’s Word. If God promised it would be, it must come to pass. God has filled his book with blessings and assurances that are there for the taking. We need not be timid when it comes to gathering the manna that falls from heaven. When we discover a promise given to us, we are encouraged to cash it in. No saint need be spiritually impoverished, filled with doubt, fear, or uncertainty. When we discover a promise we should mark it, memorize it, record it, and bank on it. We should be like Abraham who “staggered not at the promises of God.”

4. Is there an example for me to follow?

Jesus coined the phrase that captures the essence of Christianity: “follow-me.” Yet God has filled the Bible with hundreds of patterns of spiritual and successful behavior, as well as paradigms, axioms, and examples for us to follow. “He that walketh with wise men, shall be wise” said Solomon. To Isaiah he said “this is the way walk ye in it.”

5. Is there a command for me to obey?

We are men and women under authority. We are soldiers under orders. We are servants who need to learn to do “not [our], but [His] will be done.” The Bible is more than a book of suggestions. It is a book of instructions that must be followed. The Jewish people called the Bible the Torah. Torah means "Instruction." Jesus said, “Why

call ye me lord, lord and do not the things which I say?”

6. Is there a warning to be heeded? Some things that are not sin as such; they are just silly. Foolish and careless behavior can lead to sin. For example, we are told about the foolishness of trying to run while carrying heavy weights. These are things that hinder us. We are instructed about the deceitfulness of riches, and the heart of man. We are told about the dangers of trying to serve two masters, or halting between two opinions.

7. Did I see God?

Adam met God in fellowship in the cool of the day. Do I just see words, axioms, warnings, truths? All these things are like the aura and glory of The Almighty. All these are wonderful, important, necessary, and exciting, but they are not enough. Look for Him. “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Mat. 5:8).

One More Thing-

God’s word requires a response. We must be willing to grasp hold of that principle, or avoid that sin, or claim that promise. The Bible has the answer to all the important questions of life. It tells us about the past and it reveals for us the future. It also shows us how to live a happy and successful life, and it tells us how to live forever. It must be read with faith in order for it to do its miraculous work in us. After we read it, after we have asked these seven basic questions there is one more important question to ask and then one important thing we must be willing to do. The question we must ask is “Am I willing to change?” If the answer is “no” then nothing much happens, but if the answer is “yes” then watch how God and His Bible Works.