

# “The Most Important Thing”

A rationale for *daily* inspiration

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## The Battle for the Bible: Advice to Myself

It really is a battle. The Enemy of our souls may consider this to be the greatest of all battles for our soul. “The Bible will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from the Bible.”

It is an emotional and spiritual battle. If we have no appetite for God’s Word a small excuse can divert us. If we look forward with anticipation and excitement we are much more likely to seek and to find God’s Word to us.

Thus it is a choice. “Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth.” The Bible expects us to choose to delight in God and His Will. “Rejoice in the Lord,” Paul gives as a command. He goes on to say “Since there are things which are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, THINK on these things. Since there are things that are excellent and worthy of praise LET YOUR MIND DWELL on those things.” These are commands.

Commands with a marvelous promise: “practice this and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4.

So—even before you get out of bed each day—deliberately *focus* your groggy mind on the Bible. *Try* to recall what you got out of the Bible the day before. *Reflect* on what new insights you may get today. *Hang on* for dear life. *Do* the minimum of dressing and stirring around before you open your Bible.

Sure you need to brush your teeth, check the newspaper headlines. Is there a news broadcast you may miss? It is not as important as whether you walk into the day with God and the things of God uppermost in your mind.

Went to bed late? Follow Plan B. You have traded time the night before for time in the morning. Perhaps that was a careless, or even a demonic diversion. Repent of it. But get on with the day. You can still focus your heart on God—without brand new input from the Bible. Be sure to recall yesterday’s high point. Ask God to forgive you. Hang on to Him and to the god-conscious life He has asked you to live.

## The Battle for the Bible: Advice to Others

HOW to read the Bible? Just reading may not be good enough. To chew and inwardly digest is important. All-important is to have God lift some new, fresh thought into your mind and heart. His mercies are new every morning. the Bible assures us.

Don’t let the thoughts God gives you escape. Jot them down. Journalize determinedly.

*Studying* the Bible may not be good enough. But study along with spiritual reflection is better. The Bible is not a magical book which pops its truth into our minds without any serious study. The “Inductive Bible Study” approach is very valuable.

There is a time for study and a time for spiritual refreshment. Some of both each day is good.

A plan is good. But not if it becomes our master. Jesus said, The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Satan would love to tie us up in knots by giving us arbitrary “goals” of athletic-like Bible-reading achievement. Something we can boast about.

Don’t go it alone. Everyone needs encouragement, accountability. If you share your aspirations with someone else who will be willing to check on you *that can be very helpful*.

If we are eager to hear from God we will be eager to share what we hear. What God tells us by way of admonition or solace or inspiration is worthy to be shared with others.

Remember, though, the snare of the teacher or preacher. You may go simply to the Bible desperate for something that can be shared that will impress others. That really is a snare. In that case we are not seeking God in that quiet desperation but to save ourselves embarrassment or failure.

To walk with God is a very high aspiration and is very rewarding and strengthening. Over the years we learn more and more just how to approach it. Practicing the presence of God takes practice. It is surely worth it. Over time it may be “the most important thing.”