

GROW

AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 9 – The Right Means



“Don’t text and drive.” We hear it so often it’s tough not to roll our eyes at the warning, thinking it’s not really a problem. But it is, as numerous studies have shown.¹ Being warned so often about the dangers of texting and driving it can make it hard to care. Any time something is repeated over and over it has the potential to lose impact, but things that are often repeated are normally repeated for a reason. We face this same danger in our spiritual lives. From the very earliest days of the Christian life, believers are told to read their Bibles and study it for themselves. This mantra is repeated so often that it can easily become white noise. “How do I grow? Right, read the Bible. Didn’t see that one coming!” Although this might seem like a “kindergarten Christianity” lesson, what we are studying is hugely important. It’s a message that needs to be heard again and again: you must study God’s Word to grow!

THE _____ OF STUDYING THE BIBLE (2 TIMOTHY 3:16)

1. Scripture is _____ (cf 2 Peter 1:21)

Scripture is inspired, a word that means “God breathed.” When you speak you exhale, and so the idea is that the Scriptures are the speech of God. This happens as God moved in men, preserving them from error and making sure they were accurately communicating his thoughts all the while using their unique personalities.

2. Scripture is _____.

Although not necessarily to the same degree or in the same way, all Scripture has profit for believers.

¹ <http://www.textinganddrivingsafety.com/texting-and-driving-stats>

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3. **Scripture** _____ – God’s Word shows us what’s right.³
4. **Scripture** _____ – God’s Word shows us where we’re wrong.
5. **Scripture** _____ – God’s Word shows us how to make it right.
6. **Scripture** _____ **in righteousness** – God’s Word shows us how to keep it right.

THE _____ OF STUDYING THE BIBLE

1. _____ **the Bible.**
Like any other skill, reading the Bible gets easier the more you do it. While there is a time and a place for getting better at studying the Bible, nothing replaces simply reading God’s Word. Consider finding a place, time, and picking a plan to go through.
2. _____ **the Bible.**
Look up words, history, and culture to understand what’s going on in a passage. Invest in study resources like Bible dictionaries, easy to understand commentaries. Discover free online resources such as blueletterbible.org or biblestudytools.org.
3. _____ **on the Bible.**
God instructs us to meditate on God’s Word day and night (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8). Reading God’s Word for half an hour is a great! But God wants his children to constantly be thinking about the truth of his words!
4. _____ **the Bible.**
5. **Hear** _____ **on the Bible.**

³ I originally came across this helpful fourfold description of these four words in one of my counseling classes.

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