

From Pastor Ed: The 21 Day Wesley Challenge

This is day 7! You made it through the week!!

Remember tomorrow we will be gathering for a brief thirty minute OT (overtime) in Wesley hall following worship where we will have a chance to meet with others and discuss our thoughts/answers to at least one of the questions from this past week.

This experience in Wesley Hall is essential to the 21 Day Challenge process, so I hope you will be able to participate.

Day SEVEN Question SEVEN

“Do I give time for the Bible to speak to me every day?”

Consider the following...

Wesley didn't ask this question to create more for Christians to do. He wanted us to look at our efforts to daily engage the Bible as a way for God to speak to us to shape us into more deeply committed Christians. Bible reading is not a task to be completed. It is a habitual practice to shape us and mold us into who God invites us to be. Learning to listen to God through the Bible forms a life foundation that helps us become more aware of other ways, such as music, prayer or the beauty of creation, in which God also desires to speak to us.

- Do you struggle with finding (or taking) the time to read the Bible each day? As with any other good habit, start small—even five minutes a day, and let the time increase as the discipline strengthens your spiritual life.
- Is your challenge more with understanding and interpreting what you read? There are many resources that can help guide your understanding—but you still need to reflect and pray, taking in what you understand from each Bible passage. You can find more help in understanding by joining one of our regular Bible Studies, or joining the Sunday morning Adult study in the Library before worship every Sunday.
- If you know someone who has developed the discipline of daily Bible reading, ask them about their experiences and routine, and what helps them hear God speaking through the Bible.

Prayer: God, stir in me a passion to read the Bible daily, and meditate on what I read. Give me the ability to understand, so that I can put your teachings into practice. Help the words of the Bible to not be just words on a page, but passageways of mercy into my heart. Amen.

Day Seven devotional Seven: (Thanks to Jami Balmet www.youngwivesguide.com)

The Importance of Spending Time in God's Word

In my life as a believer, reading God's word has been, at times, very low on my priority list. I head to church, do a weekly Bible study, share in edifying conversations, but my daily Bible time suffers.

A personal struggle

This has probably been my biggest challenge in leading a disciplined Christian life: daily Bible reading. I'll start trying to read every day and make it a week before things get too busy again and it falls to the wayside. However, daily Scripture reading is vital and we must not forsake it.

“No Spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. Nothing can substitute for it. There simply is no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk and meat of scripture.” ~Donald Whitney, [Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life](#).

The benefits of daily Scripture reading

But I have learned that when I'm in my daily reading, my life drastically changes. I find my thoughts focused on God much more and my responses become more godly. I find myself in prayer constantly, sharing my day with Him.

And finally in my life, daily Scripture reading has become a part of my morning routine. I'm not saying I don't occasionally miss a day (of course I do!) but I am able to pick up the next day.

Currently I am reading through the whole Bible. I am reading 5 chapters a day (takes about 20 minutes) and I just finished reading the book of Job this morning. Tomorrow I start on Psalms. Yes, it takes work. But we are called to follow God and that means making a little sacrifice of our time.

Daily Bible Reading is so vital to the life of the believer.

It makes your convictions **stronger**.

God's sovereignty becomes so much clearer.

The Old Testament **comes alive** in ways it never has before.

You get to see the **story of God's people** from creation until the early church.

God's **love and promises** scream out from the text.

Jesus' love for His people becomes crystal clear when you see the story of his life, death and resurrection illustrated from Genesis clear through Revelation.

Your commitment to follow Him in all ways **solidifies**.

You begin to see the big picture: **God's Kingdom Glorified!**

What's your experience?

Are you struggling today with finding the time? Do you feel like there just simply isn't enough

time in the day? Do you have every good intention to read and when the time comes you simply don't have time or are too tired to read?

Then I ask you today to challenge yourself! Bring this issue to God and earnestly seek to make this a daily commitment! Do you plan to do it each night and then find yourself falling into bed too tired? Then plan to do your reading first thing in the morning! Tell another Christian friend and have them hold you accountable.

“We fail in our duty to study God’s word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” ~R.C. Sproul, Knowing Scripture.

Find the right time that works for you. And do it every day. After a while this will become habit and before you know it won't even be a struggle!