

What's the purpose of Bible Study ?

To hear from God

To make contact with God

To be loved by God

To receive God's revelation of Himself to me and in me

For God to replace the bad parts of me with good parts of Himself.

Why do I want to make daily contact with God ?

Out of need, my need – a twofold need:

1. First, if I have already tasted and seen that the Lord is good and I am honest and sincere of heart, then I cannot help but **want more of Him**. If a little of God is good then more of Him must be better, **unless**:

- (a) **I have become afraid of God** and afraid of condemnation. Why did Adam and Eve become afraid of God ? Because of sin. That's why we also become afraid of God. But we need to understand:

Who conspired to get Adam and Eve to sin ? Satan

Who also is the one who condemns us after we have sinned ? – Satan.

What did Jesus come to do ? – to destroy the works of the devil. (! John 3:8)

Whose sins were actually put on Jesus – and killed Him ? – mine.

Is it God then, who put our sins on Jesus, who condemns us ? No.

How long does it take for me to receive my heavenly Father's forgiveness ? – about one second – I'm only ever about one second away from forgiveness and peace with God.

- (b) A second explanation for why (besides becoming wrongly fearful of God) the simple truth that if a little of God is good, more is better, is not registering with me, is:

I've forgotten just how good a little of God is, when He saved me.

I've forgotten my first love for Him.

I've forgotten that I was dead inside and He gave me life.

I've forgotten that I was justly and irrevocably headed for Hell and He gave me free access to Heaven.

And all this was neither of my own will, nor of the will of man, but of His will alone. Why, because He loves me – in the beginning He made me in my mother's womb. Then, in life, through my choices and decisions, I ran away into darkness and sealed my own fate. But He purchased me back with the blood of Jesus. It's been a while now since He saved me and I have neglected so great a salvation.

Can God forgive this too ? Oh yes, in just about a second. But what about me and the way I have become, and the need for changes in me, changes that I simply don't seem to be able to make. Can God help me change ?

2. This touches on **the second great need I have for making contact with God**, the first was, I need Him just because He is God – unless my recognition of my need has been obscured through (a) becoming afraid of Him through the deceitfulness of sin, or (b) I have forgotten, through neglect, how good He is.

The second great need I have for making daily contact with God through Bible study, is my need to be changed; my need to be changed by God and made more like him.

How do you know though that I need to be changed ?

I don't, but let's ask ourselves some basic questions:

- Am I at peace ? Self isn't, but Jesus is.
- Am I irritable and prone to anger, touchy and easily offended ? Self is but Jesus isn't.
- Am I envious and do I covet other people's stuff ? Do I perhaps not understand that there is no such thing as having enough stuff (its always a little more) **except** when there is enough of God in me (through His word) that I'm now content with my current stuff.
- Do I have difficulty forgiving others and forgetting what they did.
- Do I have control over:

The thoughts of my mind ?

The words that come out of my mouth ?

The appetites and desires of my body ?

A self ruled life doesn't, but godliness (or God's word in me ness) increasingly does.

Do you need to make daily contact with God through Bible study – you decide.

But what does the satisfaction of these two great needs of mine, “more of God” and this business of “my being changed” have to do with daily bible study ? Just this:

- The words of Christ ... in me, in my heart ... produce Christ in me.

Col. 3:16 **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”** Eph. 3:17 **“That Christ may dwell in your hearts...”**.

- The flesh and blood of Jesus Christ – which Jesus said, in John chapter 6, referred to His Spirit breathed words – when eaten – produce Christlikeness in me, produce conformity to Him, result in the replacement of me with himself.
- The seed of God – which Jesus said, in Mark chapter 4, is the word of God – when this seed, God’s seed, is planted in my heart, it always reproduces after its own kind and therefore produces godliness in me.

Do I need the word of God daily, loaded with all these benefits, do I ever!

NOTE If we still think that the Bible is a set of rules that we have to struggle and strain to attain to (and never do) we’ve rather missed the whole point of the New Covenant that Jesus ushered in through the cross.

What were once commandments written in stone, are now promises written in blood. When I am willing to stand still for long enough to let God write, by His Spirit, one of His promises in my heart – I discover that it produces His (that is God’s) very nature in me.

“Whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises, the by these you might be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” 2 Pet. 1:4

This is how my two great needs are met, this is how I receive more of Him and this is how He replaces the bad in me with the good of Himself. This then is God’s primary purpose for wanting me to make daily contact with him through Bible study.