

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE WORD



My hope for this 3-week series is that each of us will appreciate and experience to a greater degree our engagement with Scripture as...

a place where we consistently and expectantly meet with God

the Spirit's irreplaceable tool for deepening our understanding of God's ways and will

how we *abide in the word* and the word abides in us to transform us with power

“For my thoughts
are not your thoughts,
and your ways are
not my ways.”

Isaiah 55:8 CSB

“My people are foolish.
They don't know me.
They are stupid children.
They don't understand.”

Jeremiah 4:22a ERV

Jeremiah 9:23-24a ESV

“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,
let not the mighty man boast in his might,
let not the rich man boast in his riches,
²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this,
that he **understands** and **knows** me...”

...if I have found favor
in your sight, please show
me now your ways, that I
may know you in order to
find favor in your sight.

Exodus 33:13a ESV

Make your ways
known to me, LORD;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Guide me in your truth
and teach me....

Psalms 25:4-5a CSB

In considering the issue of engaging with Scripture,
the first and primary question is not, *Do I read the Bible?*
It is, *Do I have a compelling desire to understand and know God?*

Colossians 1:9-10 CEB

...since the day we heard about you,
we haven't stopped praying for you and asking for you
to be filled with the knowledge of God's will,
with all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

¹⁰ We're praying this so that you can live lives that are
worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in every way:
by producing fruit in every good work
and growing in the knowledge of God....

1 Timothy 4:13 NIV

Until I come, devote yourself to
the public reading of Scripture,
to preaching and to teaching.

Romans 12:2 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—
his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The goal is not only that
we gain knowledge and understanding *about* God
– what he's like and what he likes and doesn't like –
but that we come to know him relationally
and that we actually become the kind of person
who thinks like him, without thinking about it.

Hebrews 5:14 RSV

But solid food is for the mature,
for those who have their faculties trained by practice
to distinguish good from evil.

Do I have a compelling desire to understand and know God?

Do I desire to be transformed by the renovation of my mind,
so that I ever-increasingly become the kind of person
who thinks like God, without thinking about it?

Am I arranging my life in such a way
that I regularly engage with him in Scripture
to make the fulfillment of these desires possible?