

When God Gets Personal with His Word: Part 2

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Announcement: Life Journals

We're encouraging every single person to get a Life Journal. It is a notebook that contains a daily bible reading schedule along with sections to record what God is teaching you. This is a tool to help you make your spiritual growth personal. You'll have a record of what God says to you. Life Journals cost just \$5.00 and are currently available on Sunday mornings in the Atrium. Student and children's versions are also available.

Life-Changing Lessons

1. When God's word becomes personal to me, I allow it to correct me when I'm wrong.
2. Respect for God's word does not necessarily make a person a Christian.
3. Each generation must make God's word personal for themselves.

Scripture

2 Chronicles 34 (New International Version)

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

³ In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

⁸ In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the LORD his God.

¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses.

¹⁸ Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. ¹⁹ When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.

²¹ "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."

²⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people—all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah. ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all that their hands have

made, my anger will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.' ²⁶ Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: ²⁷ Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁸ Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.' "

So they took her answer back to the king.

²⁹ Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰ He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD.

Opening Question

Why do you think most believers struggle to obey everything they know to be true and wise from God's word?

Digging for Truth

1. In the You Tube video, Penn said, "How much do you have to hate someone to not proselytize them?" What keeps us from "proselytizing" others?
2. Read the passage above if some of the group wasn't in worship. What type opposition do you think Josiah faced when he destroyed the false gods? How would he be received as President of the United States?
3. Some have said that God gives us more when we obey what we have. Josiah obeyed what he knew, so God gave him more. What letter grade would you give yourself in obeying what we know?

Next time you need more light from God, go back and be obedient to what He has already revealed!

4. Life-changing Lesson #1 says, "**When God's word becomes personal to me, I allow it to correct me when I'm wrong.**" Can some of you share a time in your life when God convicted you through His word has convicted you and you have made changes?

Romans 7:7 - ⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."^[a]

5. Some people want the Bible to be a book of nice stories about a Stepford God, He goes along with whatever we want to do. How do you think some people get this view of God's word?
6. Psalm 119:9 & 24 says, ⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ²⁴Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."

What are the things we can do to help us delight in God's word and to live by it?

7. Lesson #2 states "**Respect for God's word does not necessarily make a person a Christian.**" Have you ever met anyone who respected God's word but didn't follow it? What was your analysis of what was going on within them?

8. Lesson #3 states “**Each generation must make God’s word personal for themselves.**” Many of us had parents and grandparents who faithfully spent time in God’s word. Their legacy is not automatically handed down. If it is not a core value in our lives, it will be completely forgotten in the lives of our children. How are you passing down a godly legacy to your children?
9. Les shared examples from his devotions this week. Using the SOAP outline below, will someone share with us a lesson you have learned (or reviewed) this week in your daily reading? (Leader, please have an example and encourage people to have a daily reading plan.)

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

10. Share these possible reading plans. Encourage people to be faithful, even if just a chapter a day in the Word.

Possible daily bible reading plans:

- a. Plan in your Life Journal
- b. Life Journal: Read just the Old Testament passages
- c. Life Journal: Read just the New Testament passages
- d. Visit BiblePlan.org and chose a plan to be emailed to you daily.
- e. Visit WestwoodToday.com/grow for a chapter a day plan through the entire Bible.

Other verses used

John 1:1,14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 5:39

³⁹You diligently study^[a] the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,

Psalms 16:11

¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Closing Thought

Next week, I challenge you to have at least one truth to share that you have learned through your reading plan this week. Tell me know what time and place you will read.