

# PERSEVERING in the Bible

*How do we experience God through the Bible for a lifetime?*

## **The Seminar Series:** The Bible

- **The VALUE of the Bible...***What value should we place on the Bible?*
- **The RELIABILITY of the Bible - Part 1...***Can we trust the Bible?*
- **The RELIABILITY of the Bible - Part 2...***Can we trust the Bible?*
- **APPROACHING the Bible ...***What attitude should we have as read the Bible?*
- **UNDERSTANDING the Bible ...***How do we understand and interpret the Bible?*
- **EXPERIENCING God in the Bible...***How do we experience God when we read the Bible?*
- **PERSEVERING in the Bible...***How do we experience God through the Bible for a lifetime?*

**INTRODUCTION:** *Weathering the various seasons & storms of life while continuing to bear fruit*

**Ecclesiastes 12:1** - *Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"*

## **Experiencing God through the Seasons of Life**

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**Psalms 1:1-6** - *1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

**Two Metaphors:** *Flourishing tree OR windblown chaff* - verses 3-4

**Two Paths:** *Influenced by the world OR influenced by the Word* - verses 1-2

**Staying in the Path of Flourishing:** *Meditate & Obey*

→ *Meditate on the Bible*

"Meditation on the Bible is more than just intense thinking. The Bible contains information, but it is more than that. It talks about itself as a living and active agent (Hebrews 4:12). The gospel, the message of the Bible, is said to be not just a word but a power (Romans 1:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:5). When Paul talks about the Word of God 'dwelling richly' within us (Colossians 3:16), he is clearly talking of something beyond mere assent to information. He is talking about 'a deep and penetrating contemplation' that enables the Bible's message to have transforming power. Psalm 1's metaphors convey all of this. Meditation is likened to tree roots taking in water. That means not merely knowing a truth but taking it inside and making it part of yourself. Meditation is spiritually 'tasting' the Scripture—delighting in it, sensing the sweetness of the teaching, feeling the conviction of what it tells us about ourselves, and thanking God and praising God for what it shows us about him. Meditation is also spiritually 'digesting' the Scripture—applying it, thinking out how it affects you, describes you, guides you in the most practical way. It is drawing strength from the Scripture, letting it give you hope, using it to remember how loved you are. To shift metaphors, meditation is taking the truth down into our hearts until it catches fire there and begins to melt and shape our reactions to God, ourselves, and the world." - **Tim Keller, Prayer, page 151**

→ *Obey the Bible*

*The impact of continually meditating on the Bible and seeking to walk in obedience to it in and out of the harsh winters and threatening storms of life is flourishing and fruit bearing.*

**Practical takeaway in every season** → Fall forward in meditating on and obeying God's Word

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## **Where do I go from here?**

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→ **BUILD** into your life the rhythm of reading, studying, and meditating on the Bible

→ **BE FLEXIBLE** to stay connected to the Bible in the different stages and seasons

IF you have **5 minutes** with the Bible...*read a verse or passage using the 3 A's*

**ADORE** - What did you learn about God for which you could praise or thank Him?

**ADMIT** - What did you learn about yourself for which you could repent?

**ASPIRE** - What did you learn about life that you could aspire to, ask for, and act on?

IF you have **15 minutes** with the Bible...*read a passage or chapter using the Gospel Grid*

**GOD** - What does this passage teach or reveal about God (His character or work)?

**MAN** - What does this passage teach or reveal about people (our sin or needs)?

**CHRIST** - What does this passage teach or reveal about Jesus (foreshadowing, directly speaking about, or revealing the need for His work on the cross and empowerment)?

**RESPONSE** - What difference should these truths make in the ways I think, believe, live? How would I think, believe and live if I forgot these truths?

IF you have **30 minutes** with the Bible...*study a verse or passage using O.I.A.M.*

### **How often should I do OIAM?**

### **Where should I begin in reading, studying, and meditating on the Bible?**

- Proverbs, Gospels, Psalms, Philippians, Ephesians, James
- Read through the entire Bible at some point using 3As or Gospel Grid questions to help you meditate

→ **UTILIZE** the body of Christ by taking advantage of studying the Bible with other followers of Christ

→ **INVEST** whatever time you are able and trust God to use it

→ **FALL FORWARD** - Continue to commit to immersing yourself in the Bible more and more upon the completion of this seminar. God wants to communicate to you!

**The Psalm 119 experiment** - read & pray through Psalm 119:145-176 this upcoming week