

# **Life is not a Spectator Sport**

## *The Foundation of Intentional Living Part 2*

*Colossians 3.17*

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

### **How do we enter into Intentional Living?**

#### **I. Recognize Change is a CHOICE not a Response.**

- a. Change occurs when we seek to OBEY the Spirit Promptly.**

#### **II. RESIST Reactive Living (Backsliding) *Psalm 1***

*Psalms 1:1*

*(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;*

##### **a. The RISK of Reactive Living**

- An unintentional walk leads to spiritual DISTRACTION.**

*“The counsel of the wicked,”* distracts our MINDS.

- An unintentional stand leads to spiritual DIVISION.**

*“The way of sinners,”* divides our RELATIONSHIPS.

- An unintentional seat leads to spiritual DECAY.**

*“The Seat of the Scoffer,”* decays our HEARTS.

### III. The RESOURCE of Intentional Living - God's Word

*Psalms 1:2-3*

*(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.*

- a. **MEDITATION** in God's Word leads to Intimacy with God
- b. **EXPLORATION** of God's Word leads to Knowledge of God
- c. **MEMORIZATION** of God's Word leads to Wisdom from God
- d. **TRANSFORMATION** by God's Word leads to an Abundant Life with God

### IV. The **REWARDS** of Intentional Living.

- a. **REFRESHMENT** - the resources for an abundant life  
*He is like a tree planted by streams of water*
- b. **FRUITFULNESS** - the relationships of an abundant life  
*...that yields its fruit in its season...*
- c. **ENDURANCE** – the confidence of an abundant life  
*...and its leaf does not wither...*
- d. **PROSPERITY** – the joy of an abundant life  
*...In all that he does, he prospers.*

## ***Practical steps to begin laying the foundation for intentional living in God's Word.***

### **1. Develop an intentional Bible Reading Plan**

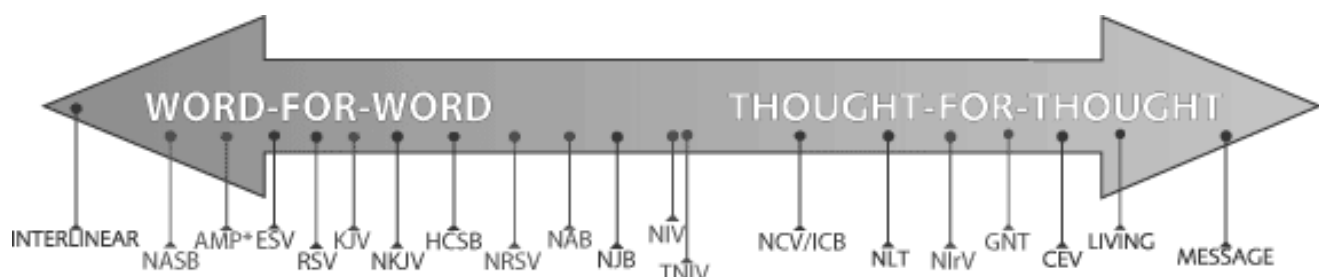
- *Read the Bible through in a year – [www.bibleplan.org](http://www.bibleplan.org)*
- *Explore the heart of God through the Psalms*
  - *Read 5 Psalms a day beginning with the days date and add 30, 60, 90 & 120 to the number. Example on 4<sup>th</sup> of the month read Psalm 4, 34, 64, 94 & 124.*
- *Read the New Testament through in a Read a chapter every weekday and you will complete the New Testament in 1 year.*

### **2. During your reading choose 1 verse each day to meditate on for the day. Write out the verse so you can better remember it. Ask God to give you insight into His Word as you meditate.**

### **3. Keep a Journal of what God reveals through meditation on His Word. Explore questions like,**

- *What does this verse tell me about God's Character?*
- *What steps of obedience of faith is this verse calling me to take?*
- *What does this verse reveal about my identity in Christ?*
- *Does this verse teach me something about how to worship and praise God for who He is and what He has done?*
- *Does this verse give insight about how I should pray for myself or for someone else?*

## ***Bible Translation to Paraphrase Comparison Chart***



## Tools for Studying God's Word

### PURPOSE

- Study to know God through His Word not just about the Bible.
- Be intentional and develop a plan to spend regular time in God's Word.

### PRAYER

- Thank God for the gift of His Word.
- Ask God for insight into understanding and applying His Word.
- Ask God to show you more of Himself through His Word.

### UNDERSTANDING

- *Context:* Read the verses immediately preceding and following the passage. Scan the surrounding chapters to get firm grasp on the setting and theme.
- *Scriptural Context:* Identify any Old Testament quotes and check their context.
- *Cross References:* Look up cross referenced verses that deal with similar subjects of words for better understanding of the scope of scripture on the passage you are studying.
- *Comprehension:* Look up words you don't understand to discover the range of possible meaning.
- *Comprehension:* Ask the questions who, what, where, when, why, how concerning the passage.
- *Comprehension:* Look for logic indicators in the text such as *since, then, therefore, but, also*. Follow the logical train of thought regardless of the verse or chapter break.
- *Discernment:* Examine the details of the passage through the lens of the broader theme. Don't read into the text something you are looking for, rather allow the text to speak to you.

### APPLICATION

- Ask what does this passage tell me about God, myself, and others?
- Are there any sins to be confessed or avoided?
- Are there commands to be obeyed?
- What truth from this passage can I apply to my life and relationships?

### RESOURCES

- Online Tools: [www.studylight.org](http://www.studylight.org) is a great resource website with bible reference tools.
- Bible Software: [www.crosswire.org](http://www.crosswire.org) has a free Bible study suite called the Sword Project that is available for many computer platforms. It includes numerous commentaries, bible dictionaries and Bible translations including the ESV (English Standard Version) for free.
- Study Bible: One of the best tools is a good Study Bible with background notes and cross reference scripture linking. The ESV Study Bible, NIV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible are some excellent options.
- *Commentaries:* A reliable commentary can shed additional light on a passage. The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord & Zuck, The Believers Bible Commentary by William MacDonald, Matthew Henry Commentary, Adam Clark's Bible Commentary, and the John MacArthur Bible Commentary are some good options to explore.