

Helpful Hints in the Study of God's Word

by George Mueller

The importance of meditation on God's Word and prayer in nourishing the inner man and trusting in God's ability to help.

Scripture: Psalm 119:23, Psalm 119:81, Proverbs 30:8, Isaiah 26:9, Jeremiah 36:8, Daniel 3:17, John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 10:11, 2 Timothy 3:16, James 1:5

Topics: "Spiritual Nourishment", "Meditation on Scripture"

Description

George Mueller emphasizes the importance of meditation on God's Word as a means to nourish the inner man and strengthen prayer. He encourages believers to seek wisdom from God and to trust in His ability to provide guidance and understanding through the Scriptures. Mueller highlights that daily reading and meditation on both the Old and New Testaments is crucial for spiritual growth and understanding. He reminds us that the Holy Spirit is our teacher, helping us to grasp the truths of Scripture and apply them to our lives. Ultimately, he calls believers to find joy and nourishment in God's Word, which is essential for their spiritual well-being.

Transcript

"Thy servant did meditate in Thy statutes." Ps. 119:23.

Prayer requires, generally speaking, a measure of strength or godly desire, and the season, therefore, when this exercise of the soul can be most effectually performed, is after the inner man has been nourished by meditation on the Word of God, where we find our Father speaking to us to encourage us.

"I hope in Thy Word." Ps. 119:81.

Is it not precious to have the living God as a Father to go to, who is ever able and ever willing to help, as may be really needed? All believers, according to the will of God concerning them in Jesus Christ, may cast, and ought to cast, all their care upon Him who careth for them, and need not be anxiously concerned about anything.

"With my spirit within me will I seek Thee early." Isa. 26: 9.

My heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father, and to my Friend, about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Tim. 3:16.

I believe that all the books of the Old Testament and of the New Testament are written by inspiration. My great love for the Word of God and my deep conviction of the need of its being spread far and wide, have led me to pray to God to use me as an instrument to do this.

"They are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Cor. 10:11.

Why may not all believers act in the spirit of apostolic Christians, seeing that the same blessed Spirit who dwelt in them dwells in all who believe in the Lord Jesus; and that we have the whole revealed will of God in our possession in the Holy Scriptures; and like apostolic believers are looking for the return of the Lord Jesus, with whom we shall share the glory.

"Reading in the book the words of the Lord." Jer. 36:8.

I continue to wait upon God, and seek to encourage my heart by His Holy Word, and while He delays giving me answers, to be occupied in His service. Of this my soul has not the least doubt, that, when the Lord shall have been pleased to exercise my soul by the trial of faith and patience, He will make bare His arm and send help.

"Our God, whom we serve is able." Dan. 3:17.

The Believer will repose upon the ability of God to help him, because he has not only learned from His Word that He is of almighty power and infinite wisdom, but he has seen instance upon instance in the Holy Scriptures in which His almighty power and infinite wisdom have been exercised in helping His people.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." James 1:5.

When I do not understand a passage of the Word of God, I lift up my heart to the Lord, that He would be pleased by His Holy Spirit to instruct me, and I expect to be taught, though I do not fix the time when, and the manner how, it should be. When I am going to minister in the Word, I seek help from the Lord, and believe that He for His dear Son's sake will help me.

"Feed me with food convenient for me." Prov. 30:8.

God has taught me this point, that the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning is to obtain food for his inner man. Now what is the food for the inner man? Considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.

"Dig for it more than for hid treasures." Job 3:21.

When I have been for a while making confession, or intercession, or supplication, or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it; but still continually keeping before me, that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation.

"Send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared." Neh. 8:10.

Also the Lord is pleased to communicate unto me that which, very soon after, I have found become food for other believers. My heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father, and to my Friend about the things He has brought before me in His precious

Word.

"The Spirit of Truth . . . He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13.

The Word of God can be explained only by the Holy Spirit; He is the teacher of His people. The first evening that I shut myself into my room, to give myself to prayer and meditation over the Scriptures, I learned more in a few hours than I had done during a period of several months previously.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them." 1 Tim. 4:15.

We should meditate on what we read, so that perhaps a small portion of that which we have read, or, if we have time, the whole, may be meditated upon in the course of the day. Or a portion of a book, or an epistle, or a gospel, through which we go for meditation, may be considered every day.

"Every day a portion." Jer. 52:34.

It is of immense importance for the understanding of the Word of God, to read every day a portion of the Old and a portion of the New Testament, going on where we previously left off. This throws light upon the connection; for a different course will make it utterly impossible ever to understand much of the Scriptures.

"Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jer. 15:16.

If the reader understands very little of the Word of God, he ought to read it very much; for the Spirit explains the Word by the Word. And if he enjoys the reading of the Word little, that is just the reason why he should read it very much; for the frequent reading of the Scriptures creates a delight in them.

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