

## HOW TO CULTIVATE A DESIRE TO STUDY

BY PENN CLARK

How can I find fresh discipline to study?

Paul wrote to Timothy about this when he said,

*Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, AMP)*

We need to do it by seeking God's approval, not men's. This will set us free to be able to really explore His Word.

Practically speaking, we can begin by searching the Bible for promises, finding proverbs that are applicable to our lives, doing character studies of people in the Bible, doing word studies, finding common denominators, doing a synopsis of the Four Gospels, and meditating upon the Law. It is not just reading the Bible that bears the fruit; it is meditating upon God's Word.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8)*

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. (Psalm 1:1-4)*

Here is a list of the disciplines I have tried to apply to my own life in order to cultivate the habit of study:

- I must be learning constantly, even from correction:

*Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. (Proverbs 1:23)*

- I must remain teachable:

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (Proverbs 9:9)*

- I must accept the hard lessons that come my way:

*The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility. (Proverbs 15:31-33)*

- I must learn something from whatever I see as I go along:

*I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. (Proverbs 24:30-34)*

- I must be open to learn from others:

*He that walks with the wise will become wise. (Proverbs 13:20)*

- I must dig for nuggets of truth:

*I want those already wise to become wiser and become leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these nuggets of truth. (Proverbs 1:5-6, TLB)*

- I must pray, asking God to teach me every time I open His Word:

*Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18)*

- I must not just pray my way out of difficulty, but I must learn some truth from it:

*Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. (Psalm 25:5)*

- I must pray, asking God to show me how He does things:

*Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. (Psalm 86:11)*

- Daniel and his friends were given the “ability to learn.” I have asked God for this:

*God gave these four youths great ability to learn, and they soon mastered all the literature and science of the time; and God gave to Daniel special ability in understanding the meanings of dreams and visions. (Daniel 1:17, AMP)*

- I have asked God to do in me what He did in Solomon. Gaining wisdom has been my great quest:

*And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. (1 Kings 4:29-34)*

- I don't just want more knowledge; I want to know the Lord by experience:

*Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord. (1 Samuel 3:21)*

- Jesus can personally open up the Scriptures to us, which is what I want Him to do for me:

*And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)*

**To read more along this line get my study guide called *Five Keys* or take the *Study Course* here.**  
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