

REFLECTOR

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“Holding Forth the Word of Life”

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A CHRISTIAN'S NECESSARY FOOD

*“I have treasured the words of His mouth
more than my necessary food.”*

Job 23:12

Soul Nourishment First

From the middle 1970s, I have made it a point to encourage each believer to read the Word of God systematically and regularly for himself. At that time, I was teaching what was termed “the Pastor’s Class” during the Sunday school hour at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia. Although there were classes for the various age groups, some opted to be in my class instead of one of the other classes (based on age and gender). It was from this group that I shared truths that I was learning that were shaping my life, truths on the value of Bible reading, prayer, Spirit-filled living, witnessing, and stewardships which are now deeply embedded in the prayer seminar content.

By reading three chapters a day and five on Sunday, you can read the Bible in one year. Until you are in the Word of God for yourself, you will never become a prayer warrior the greatest need in the church today. One advantage of having a plan to read through the Bible is that you will know what you are going to read tomorrow and can stay on course.

Long ago, I discovered that the best approach to my quiet time (which is early morning) is to spend a brief moment in

acknowledging that I am coming into the presence of God. In my mind, I determine to wait before Him (**Isaiah 40:31**), to be still and know He is God (**Psalms 46:10**), and to take the initiative in drawing nigh to Him as He draws nigh to me (**James 4:8**). The result is an atmosphere of serenity, calmness, and expectation. Then I ask Him to open my eyes to be able to see wonderful things out of His Word (**Psalms 119:18**) as I open the Bible and begin to read.

Seldom is it necessary to read more than a few verses until I see something revealed about God the Father, or the Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit that brings me to an attitude of worship and praise. My prayer time begins with praising God for Who He is as revealed out of my reading. I read with a pen or pencil in my hand which produces a readiness in my mind to have a message from Him through a word, a phrase, a verse, or a passage. By taking a page of notes out of my reading each day, I remain focused and alert.

Consequently, the worship aspect of my prayer time never became stale. *“His mercies are new every morning* (**Lamentations 3:23-24**), so are the truths from His Word. After all, **the words of His mouth are our necessary food--soul nourishment must come first.**