

“Profiting From the Word”

Hebrew 4:1-3

“When you don’t know or you haven’t clearly defined your values, you end up drifting along in life. Instead of basing your decisions on an internal compass, you make choices based on circumstances and social pressures. You end up trying to fulfill other people’s expectations instead of your own.”

Community



Mission

Scripture

Service

James 1:22-24

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers *who delude themselves*. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed (NIV)

the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. (NKJV)

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Psalm 1

How blessed is the man who does not walk in
the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And *in His law he meditates day and night.*

³ He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams
of water, Which yields its fruit in its season

And its leaf does not wither;

And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalm 105:97

**“O how I love your law; it is my meditation
all the day.”**

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

I. Understanding Meditation

A. *Meaning in Hebrew and Greek*

Acts 4:25

**who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth
of our father David Your servant, said,
'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE,
AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?**

**You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the
mouth of your servant, our father David:
'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot
in vain? (NIV)**

1 Timothy 4:15

Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, thinking over, dwelling on, and applying to oneself the various things one knows about the works and ways and purpose and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communication with God. Its purpose is to clear one's mental and spiritual vision of God, and to let his truth make its full and proper impact on one's mind and heart.

- J.I. Packer

“Because I am a Christian, therefore, every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God's Word in Holy Scripture is a lost day for me. I can only move forward with certainty upon the firm ground of the Word of God. And, as a Christian, I learn to know the Holy Scriptures in no other way than by hearing the Word preached and by prayerful meditation.” *- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

I. Understanding Meditation

A. Meaning in Hebrew and Greek

B. What's Involved

1. Understand the Scripture

2. Discern God's specific will for me

3. Step out in Faith

II. Reasons We Don't Meditate

A. Hearts Are Hardened

Psalm 95:8,9

**Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,
As on the day of Massah in the wilderness,
“When your fathers put Me to the test,
They tested Me, though they had seen My
work.**

Exodus 17:7

Then he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”

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A. Hearts Are Hardened

B. It Takes Time

**"You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry
from your life"**

I've concluded that my life and the well-being of the people I serve depends on following his prescription, for hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. Hurry destroys souls.

-John Ortberg

"I'm of the opinion that busyness is a deeper threat to the soul than pornography ever was." — Gordon MacDonald

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II. Reasons We Don't Meditate

A. Hearts Are Hardened

B. It Takes Time

C. It Requires Quietness

III. Results of Meditating

A. Truth Mixed with Faith

B. Rest

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

Ps. 119:97 – How I love your law

Ps. 119:113 - I hate those who are double-minded, But I love Your Law.

Ps. 119:163 - I hate and loathe falsehood, But I love Your Law.

Ps. 119:165 - Those who love Your Law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble

