

Watch, Read, Hear, Study: 2



We need God and we need His word.

If we want to impact our world for Christ and take His to the lost of the world, we must fill our hearts and mind with God's truths and precepts. Sometimes we need to mix it up a bit. Something new can breath new life into our relationship with God.

In order to help you to continue to seek God, we have provided a few resources for you—something to watch, something to read, something to listen to and something to study. Get a drink, your Bible and a journal then choose one, two or three resources and dig in!

“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 good success.”

Something to watch:

All of us are longing for something. All of your longings are

fulfilled and found in God. Be His hands, His feet, His light. Click on the play button below to watch the video, *Go to the Limits of Your Longing*.

Something to read:

God has given us gifts and talents to use for others. Our gifts are meant to be given, not hoarded or buried underground. Live each day to the fullest. Spend yourself.



Spend Yourself

HEARTWORK

Something to Hear:

Good news from the Olympics: The faith of our athletes is strong. Listen to Eric Metaxas from Break Point.



Faith at the Olympics

Something to Study:

It is back to school time and times of testing are looming on the horizon for everyone. Learn how to keep from getting schooled.



This is a Test

Back To School: Study

To Do-ers List: Back to School, Study

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

Acts 17:10-12

“... and [they] searched the Scriptures daily ...”

Study. Examine. Search. *Searched* in the Greek transliterates

as *anakrin*, which means “to examine, to scrutinize, sift and question, to examine specifically in a forensic sense of a judge to hold an investigation.” What did they study? The Word of God. Why? To see if it contains the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The final verdict? God’s Word has stood the test of truth. Communism couldn’t silence it. Hitler couldn’t destroy it. Voltaire couldn’t banish it. God’s Word is eternal. No force, power, religious system, political regime or law can silence it. And God’s Word will continue to witness of His power and majesty forever and ever, amen. It’s time to go back to school and study.

Read or study?

Any serious student can tell you there is a big difference between *reading* and *studying*. We can read the Word of God and let its truths skim the surface or we can **study** the Word of God and plant it deep in our heart. Reading takes a little effort. Studying requires energy, perseverance, and a willingness to learn. Verse 11 lists a crucial aspect of Bible **study**. Readiness.

How do we become ready to study?

1) By opening our minds, 2) By not having made a prior decision the Bible is just a book of stories, 3) By being teachable. The Bereans were teachable. Eager to learn. They did not judge The Book by its cover; they judged it by what’s between the covers. They **studied**. The result of their open-minded study of the Bible was ... *many of them believed ...*

Salvation. Redemption. Restoration.

Study.

I cannot study in a noisy room with the television blaring. I need to set the stage for spending time with God—a quiet comfortable place apart from the busyness of the world. I have a small bedroom in my house that serves as my study place. It is furnished with a comfy chair, Bibles, commentaries, colored pencils, notebooks and (of course) electronic devices! Find a quiet place and meet consistently with God.

For today:

It's time to get your **study** on. We are not talking reading the Word, but **studying** the Word. Follow the steps below.

1. **Choose a verse** for today and write it on a note card. Carry it with you wherever you go and pull it out and meditate on it as often as possible.
2. **Study your verse** at www.blueletterbible.org Click on the link to the left, view the short tutorial and invest some time in the Word of God. God will reward you richly for your **study**.
3. **Do your verse**. Pray and ask God to give you the strength and opportunity to be a Doer of the Word.
4. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to open your mind to the truth of God's Word.

Resources:

To help you organize your daily study and record your experiences, please download and print the following PDF, or download the journal app to your favorite Apple device.

- ***To Do-ers List Study Guide PDF***
- ***Days Lite: My Wonderful Life App*** free app from App

Store.

Extra Resources:

▪ *Study God's Word: Joyce Meyer*

Don't forget to comment on your experience in the comment section below! Choose your verse/s for today and be a Doer of the Word.

School is in session. *Study!*

Previous Sessions of To Do-ers List, Back to School:

Day 1: New Clothes

Day 2: The Book

Day 3: Pack a Lunch

Day 4: Listen to The Teacher

Mary Kane

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Simple Thanks: Session 4,

Trust the Bridge to Joy

"He has put a new song in my mouth- praise to our God: Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord." Psalm 40:3

trust: the bridge to joy

Jane and I welcome you to Week Five of Simple Thanks! Fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three ...

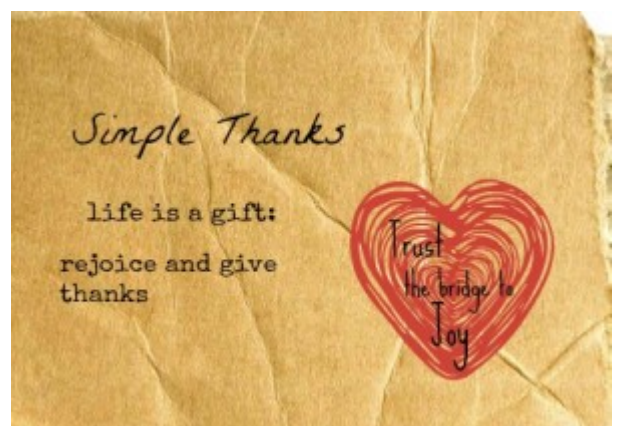
Hopefully you've been so busy counting God's blessings you've forgotten bitterness and unforgiveness. Continue to count your blessings-it's the key to living fully in the moment with God! Life is a gift-rejoice and give thanks.

Introductory Video to Week 4

Community Call

Here is our Community Call for Trust the Bridge to Joy to listen to AFTER you finish the weekly homework: Trust the Bridge to Joy

Weekly Homework



Below you will find homework for each level of study. Feel free to change from Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 as your

schedule allows! **Remember, there is no pressure to complete every activity. These are just options for your growth. They can be accessed at any time, even after the study ends.**

Level 1, Study: Weekly Goals

- For Week 5, watch *SESSION 4: Trust, the Bridge to Joy*.
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add to your one thousand gifts list.
- Feel free to do any of the other activities from Levels 2 and 3 as your time allows.

Level 2, Community: Weekly Goals

- For Week 5, watch *SESSION 4: Trust the Bridge to Joy*.
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add your one thousand gifts list.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post.
- Join the *Community Call*, Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. EST on Talk Shoe (Information on *TalkShoe* is in your weekly email.)
- Listen to the *Podcast* for information on walking in trust with God:

Level 3, Opportunity: Weekly Goals

- For Week 5, watch *SESSION 4: Trust, the Bridge to Joy*.
- Complete the *study guide* and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add to your one thousand gifts list.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post, join the *Community Call* on Wednesday night on *TalkShoe*, and listen to the *Podcast* at the link provided up above.

- Don't forget to check out our private Facebook page. Leave your comments about this week's study, post your prayer requests, or share any insights/questions you may have. Only members of our Bible study group will see these posts.
- Start your 1000 Gifts List in a separate journal.
- In the evening, do devotions 16-20 in the *One Thousand Gifts Devotional* journal.
- Read chapters 8-9 in *One Thousand Gifts trade book* by *Ann Voskamp*.
- Take advantage of the Extra Simple resources by clicking on the links below (I highly recommend the Joyce Meyer podcast):

Joyce Meyer: Stop Complaining



I AM



Hope and Trust

Image: Nutdanai Apikhomboonwaroot / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Image(s): FreeDigitalPhotos.net

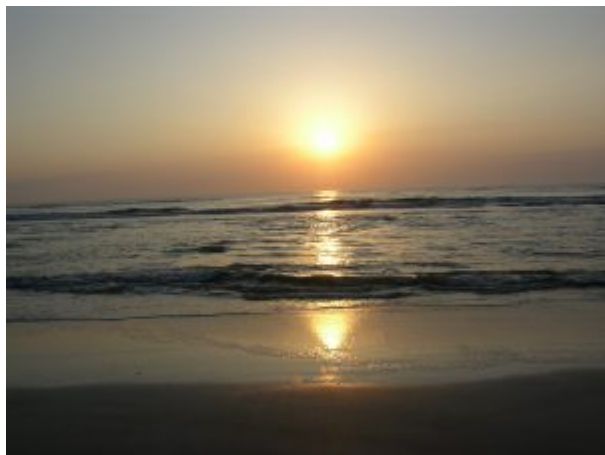
God is calling you to rest and trust in Him. Please use this beautiful music by Paul Cardall to receive the grace that God has for you this moment.

Questions of the Week (Please respond in the *Speak Your Mind* section at the very bottom of this page).

Name an area of life that God is calling you to entrust to Him. How can you begin to walk with Him in trust concerning this area? What progress have you recently made in trusting God?

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Lent Review



Our **Lenten Devotional** series has certainly sped past. It's hard to believe we are in our final week's journey to the cross and then to **Easter Sunday**. To start off this week, let's spend some time reviewing the past five weeks of study. Thanks so much for joining us, and be sure you

make some time to spend with our Lord this week as we journey through **Holy Week**. Just click below to read our review.

Lent Review

May God bless you this week!

Jane

Lent Day 21, Early Will I Seek You



Welcome to Day 21 of our **Lenten Devotional**. This week we are

pursuing a life of **simplicity**. Today we look at the importance of spending time with God. Just click on the link below to join our study. Feel free to leave any comments or ideas. We'd love to hear what you've been learning from the series.

Lent Day 21, Early Will I Seek You

(photo courtesy of Wil VanOsdol)

Jane

Lent Day 11, Pride Goes Before a Fall



Welcome to **Lent Day 11** as we wrap up our study for the week on the topic of **self-denial** with a focus on **pride**. Pride is another topic that can be difficult to deal with, but God is faithful to point out the areas in our lives where we have a tendency to be prideful.

Thanks so much for joining us this week. Tomorrow we'll start

off a week of study on fasting. Just click on the link below to read today's devotion.

Click here: Lent Day 11, Pride

Jane

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