

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

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Do You Know Your Bible?

When I learned to type (many years ago and on a manual typewriter) I didn't sit down to the keyboard, stare at all of the letters, numbers, and symbols and then start to hunt and peck. There was a process in learning to type that required memorization and practice. Remember the home row? A, s, d f, j, k, l, semicolon. When we learn to type, we begin with 8 keys and no more. We type them over and over and over again until we don't even have to stop and think about it anymore, because we have become so familiar with them and their location. But the home row is just the beginning. Then we have to start learning how to stretch and reach some of the other letters such as t, y, and those pesky pinky letters of q and p. But again, we practice and practice, reaching and stretching, while still reviewing those letters we've already mastered. I don't know how many words I'm able to type per minute, but I do know that I can type with ease and do not have to "hunt and peck" simply because I use the computer on a daily basis and get plenty of practice.

In Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Moses gives the following commands to the people of Israel: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* God's people were to totally immerse themselves in

His Word. They were to be so familiar with it that they could talk of it, use it, and teach it with ease.

Ezra the scribe knew his “Bible” well. In Ezra 7:6 he is described as a “*skilled scribe in the Law of Moses.*” In verse 11 of the same chapter, it is said that Ezra was an “*expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel.*” How does one become an expert at something? One must spend countless hours, learning and practicing to become proficient and eventually, an expert. These descriptions tell us how well Ezra knew the Word of God. This could only have come about as a result of spending much time with the Word and practicing using it.

Being familiar with our Bibles starts with memorizing the 66 books of the Bible. This helps us to be able to look up scriptures with ease and have a good idea of the location and chronology of the books. This is not just an exercise for children in Bible class but is something every single Christian should know. Think back to the process of learning to type and apply it to getting familiar with your Bible. Simply start by learning the first 5 books which are the books of the law. It helps to memorize by divisions so you are learning the parts of the Bible as well as what books are contained in each part. Start with Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Drill yourself on these until you know them easily, and then add the next division: the 12 books of history which start with the book of Joshua and end with the book of Esther. Drill those 12 books thoroughly and then go back and start with Genesis and drill through Esther until you can say them with ease. Keep adding a division at a time until you have finally mastered all 66 books. The key to learning these successfully is the same key to all successful learning: practice, practice, practice!

A good soldier keeps his sword sharp and ready. He practices with it daily until it is totally comfortable in his hand and he is able to wield his weapon with ease as though it is an extension of himself. After we have memorized the books of the Bible, it is time to practice using our swords until we're totally comfortable with

them. A great way to help you get more familiar with your Bible and how to use it is to do sword drills. Ephesians 6:17 tells us that our sword of the Spirit is the Word and we are to be armed with it and ready to use it. To do sword drills, make a list of random verses from several different books of the Bible. You can even choose to practice a certain division such as the 12 books of history in the Old Testament such as Judges 12:15, II Kings 4:23, I Samuel 16:17, Esther 3:2, Joshua 24:1; I Chronicles 12:22, and so on. Once you have a pretty good list, start looking up the scriptures as quickly as you can. (Make sure they're mixed up and not in chronological order or you'll defeat the purpose!) The goal of this exercise is to become so familiar with your Bible that you can find any scripture with ease.

Christians sometimes find it hard to study and dig deeply in the Bible because they just don't know their Bible all that well and aren't familiar with using it. This prevents personal spiritual growth and many times is a reason we're not sharing the Word with others – we just don't know it very well ourselves. We can't learn to type proficiently unless we practice diligently. How much diligence are we putting into the practice of using our Bibles? Let's remember the example of Ezra the scribe and the commands of Deuteronomy 6. Let's remember the soldier who keeps his sword sharp and practices using it daily. Let us surround ourselves with the Word of God and immerse ourselves in it. Let us open its pages and practice using it every day so we can become proficient in it. It is the only way we can truly know our Bibles.

~Heather Pryor

Ladies Bible Class – September 17th, 9:00 a.m. We will be starting our new study in the book of Nehemiah. Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share, and study **Lessons 1 & 2** before class.

Search the Scriptures
Answers to last month's quiz
“Holiness”

1. What article of clothing had an engraved plate which said “Holiness to the Lord” and who wore this item? (Exodus 28:36-38)
The high priest wore a turban on his head with this engraved plate.
2. Who referred to Jesus as the “Holy One” while announcing his birth? (Luke 1:26, 35) The angel Gabriel
3. What unlikely group called Jesus the “Holy One of God”? (Mark 1:23-24) demons
4. What is called holy in I Corinthians 3:17? The temple of God which is us, our bodies
5. According to I Peter 1:15, in what should we be holy? Our conduct

RECIPE CORNER

“She...provides food for her household.” ~Prov. 31:15

BLT CHICKEN SALAD

- 5 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 3 cups diced, cooked chicken
- 1 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 1 stalk celery, sliced thin
- ¾ cup lite mayonnaise
- 2 T. minced onion
- 1 T. chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper to taste
- 12 leaves of romaine lettuce (or lettuce of choice)

Stir chicken, bacon, tomato and celery together in a bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, parsley, onion, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper until dressing is smooth. Pour dressing over chicken mixture and toss to coat. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes, then serve over lettuce leaves.