

GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE: What Can That Possibly Mean?

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Why Read Scripture Every Day?

- Jesus IS the Word-impossible to be intensely close to Jesus without being close to His Word.
- His Word is LIFE, and it is alive! (Fr. Francis' story about the time he has seen demons expelled simply from the READING of the Gospel at Mass.)
- Regular input of truth.
- Holy Spirit can only pull it up later if it's IN there.
- What ELSE do we take into our minds each day? What sorts of things are we exposed to that NEED the light of God's Word?

How to Read Scripture Effectively

- Asking the Lord for a verse before going to sleep-rolling it through one's mind until falling asleep.
- Nature connections-i.e. facts about how parent eagles teach their young to fly. Connect to [Ex 19:4](#) and [Dt 32:11](#).
- Research a key topic or word, then search the Scriptures for passages containing that topic or idea. See if the facts you've learned about the word or topic shed new light on the passage.
- Follow cross references.
- Try reading for the literary story (setting, character qualities, etc.) Then go back and read for deeper meaning.
- Read for self and own relationship with the Lord. As opposed to thinking you have to get/"see"/derive what someone else does. E.g., when I listen to Fr. Francis talk about Scriptural meaning and connections I learn a LOT! But if I thought I had to get that sort of insight from my personal time with God's Word I would say, "FORGET IT!" What is it the Lord wants me to get from what I'm reading?
- Read a story/passage and then "retell"/rethink it in your mind (or on paper) from an entirely different character's perspective. E.g., I can TOTALLY relate to the older brother in the Prodigal Son story!. This can be powerful even with animal characters. E.g., what might Jonah's WHALE have been thinking? Particularly when God had him "belch" up his meal three days later? Or how about Noah's animals or the donkey that carried Mary, or later the one that carried Jesus into Jerusalem? Etc.

Questions for Personal Study and Small Group Discussion

1. How do I feel about reading Scripture? Do I find it difficult? Exciting? Boring? Alive? Frustrating? What makes it so for me?
2. What do I WANT out of my daily time with God's Word that I'm not getting? How can I get there?
3. What do I get out of my time with God's Word that I want to preserve? How can I do this?
4. Is there a particular Scripture passage or story that is ALIVE for me? Which one, and why?
5. Find a brand new LIVING passage this week-one you've never quite "noticed" before. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring new LIFE to some part of Scripture for you.