

# TOP 10 MOTIVATIONS TO RE-START READING MY BIBLE

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. *Psalm 119:105*

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12*

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield  
to those who take refuge in him.  
*Proverbs 30:5*

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the  
word of our God endures forever.  
*Isaiah 40:8*

- 1 PRIORITIZE** – There is something powerful about making a concrete decision to value the Bible. Make a conscious choice to prioritize building a foundation of God's Word in your life. Draw a line in the sand, and today is your day to get started. Believe in faith that the power, comfort and answers are here for you.
- 2 REMOVE** – Remove all distractions. Sometimes it's best to put your phone in a drawer or another room. Set a specific time and space to read your Bible. Add a candle, a cozy blanket and a cup of tea; this is a special time to spend with the Lord.
- 3 REALIZE** – Realize not every reading time has an "aha" moment, and that's OK. Routines are good because you are giving God room and availability in your life. Always come with a heart of expectation that God has something specific and personal to share with you, usually He does. Begin with a simple prayer, "Lord, speak to me today." Also understand that not every time you meet is going to be fireworks. Soon you will long for this time with His word.
- 4 CHOOSE** – Choose a Bible you love with a pretty notebook and pen. Start with an easy to read translation such as the New Living Translation, or dive in with a New International Version study Bible (or my favorite, a Thompson chain reference.) Own it, and keep it with you so you can feel it in your hands, your car, your bed, your couch – carry it everywhere for a week until you feel – this is mine, my greatest and most valuable possession. Perhaps get a purse or pocket size version. Your phone is fine but a hard copy is a level up from the phone because with your phone comes other distractions.

## TOP 10 MOTIVATIONS TO RE-START READING MY BIBLE *cont.*

- 5 **GO EASY** – Go easy on yourself – go slow and enjoy a few passages or spend time reading long passages. No guilt with it, just savor and enjoy time with Him and the relationship. Hide His word in your heart. Choose a reading plan, and approach it with freedom and ease. Choose to skip a plan as well because grace should be upon this process. Ultimately, keep track so that over the course of a year or two you can look back and see that you have read entire chunks or even (hopefully) the entire Bible.
- 6 **REMEMBER** – Remember you are meeting with a living God who loves you, and you are reading His active and living Word to your heart. It's a collection of love letters.
- 7 **SOAK** – Stop, ponder and meditate. It's ok to re-read; it's ok if you don't understand. Make a bullet list of the wisdom you need from Proverbs. Read one a day for 30 days. Lament through the Psalms, they are an expression of pouring out our fears, hurts and hopes in praise to God. Write your own lament to Him after reading a Psalm you love. Use your imagination in a Gospel and walk alongside Jesus in the scenes, as if you were one of the disciples or in the crowd.
- 8 **TRY** – Try a short book you have never read such as 1st, 2nd & 3rd John or a minor prophet like Hosea. Or re-read and savor some of your favorite passages such as Matthew or John. Look for themes that stand out: healing, forgiveness or the Holy Spirit, and highlight with colored pencils. Enjoy an Old Testament story about King David, Moses, Ruth or Esther, and imagine yourself in the scene.
- 9 **RECORD** – When you have finished a book, write the date and time at the front. Next time you go to read it then you will have a record of how long since you have read that particular book or how many times you have read it. I realized that some of the minor prophets I had not read for a couple years. It also shows how often you keep going back to your favorite books. Write on a sticky note one passage that stood out, and carry it around as your verse for the day.
- 10 **REWARD** – Reward yourself with a worship song at the end of your reading time.