

MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do". Joshua 1:8 NLT

What does it mean to meditate in God's word? It means to slow way down the reading pace, and to contemplate every word and phrase, looking for deeper and fuller meanings. The written word of God is revealed by the Living Word through the power of the Holy Spirit. "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Prov. 2:6)

One of the best ways to meditate in God's word is by asking questions of the text. Who is the writer? To whom is he speaking? What does the verse say and why? What does it mean? Does the verse contain a spiritual principle? How does this truth apply to my life?

Here are some other ways to ask questions as you meditate:

- **Context:** A phrase or verse is almost always understood better by looking carefully at the verses that precede and follow it. How do the previous verses set a backdrop for this verse? How do the verses following bring clarity and fuller understanding?
- **Word meanings:** Some of the words in the original Bible languages of Hebrew and Greek carry more than one possible meaning. What various shades of meaning do the significant words in this verse contain? What do other Bible translations say? What does a Bible dictionary say?
- **Cross references:** A Concordance is extremely helpful during times of meditation to consider other verses that contain the same words, phrases, or concepts of the text at hand. Some Bibles are "Reference Editions" with cross references appearing in vertical columns or footnotes. Where else does this word occur in the Bible and how does that other verse bring illumination to the text?
- **Repetition:** Look for repeated words and concepts. Why are they being repeated?
- **Symbolism:** What word pictures are being used? What do the word pictures represent?

Proverbs 16:26 reads "*Appetite is an incentive to work; hunger makes you work all the harder.*" (*The Message*)

The Lord starts by feeding you with His word. His word will satiate your appetite like nothing else. The prayer would be that once we have tasted of how sweet the Lord is, we would want more, much more!