

SEVEN SURE STEPS TO LEARN THE SCRIPTURES

Intro:

1. Teaching vs. Teaching research - 2 Timothy 2:1-2
 - a. Give a fish vs. teaching how to fish
 - b. Repairman vs. teaching how to repair
 2. The Bible is like food (Job 23:12 - desire to feed your soul - Job 12:11)
 - a. Milk - 1 Peter 2:2
 - b. Bread - Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4
 - c. Fruit & vegetables - Prov. 8:19; 25:11
 - d. Meat - 1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-14; 13:9
 - e. Honey - Psalm 19:10
 3. The Bible is like water - Deut. 32:1-3; Psalm 119:9; John 15:3; Eph. 5:26
 4. The Bible is like a survival kit.
 - a. Sword - Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12
 - b. Hammer & nails - Eccl. 12:11; Jer. 23:29
 - c. Fire (heat, cooking, & light) - Jer. 23:29
 - d. Lamp - Psalm 119:105
 - e. Seed - Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23-25
 - f. Mirror - 2 Cor. 3:17-4:2; James 1:22-25
 - g. Food
 5. Seven Sure Steps to the Scriptures
- I. **BELIEVE God** - Acts 27:25; 1 Thess. 5:21; Heb. 11:1 - Three facts prove Bible is God's word
(Blind faith? Verification of authenticity? Mal. 3:10; Acts 17:11-12; 1 Thess. 5:21)
- A. People
1. Jesus Christ - Luke 24:44-45; John 8:47 (Abraham - Luke 16:29-31)
 - a. The calendar is based upon Jesus Christ.
 - b. Christians sing about their founder Jesus Christ.
 - c. Christians are interested in Jesus Christ and His words.
 - d. Jesus predicted precise details of His birth and death.
 - e. Jesus predicted His resurrection from the dead.
 - f. Over 512 eyewitnesses verified His resurrection.
 - g. Evil men use "Jesus Christ" as an exclamation or cuss word.
 2. Jews - Romans 3:1-2; Zech. 12:3 (Levites - Ezra 7:6)
 - a. The one central person is Jesus Christ.
 - b. The one outstanding doctrine is the kingdom of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Isaiah is a Bible inside the Bible.
 - 1.) Isaiah 1:2 parallels Genesis 1:1
 - 2.) Isaiah 6:1 parallels Joshua
 - 3.) Isaiah 40:3 parallels Matthew 3
 - 4.) Isaiah 66:22 parallels Revelation 22

- B. Prophecy - Isa. 41:20-24; John 13:19; 14:29; Revelation 19:10
 (Method to Fulfillment - Revelation 17:17)
1. Events of the death of Jesus Christ - Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 10:32-34
 2. The world kingdoms of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7
 3. Josiah - 1 Kings 13; 2 Kings 23
 4. Jericho - Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34
 5. Events of the birth of Jesus Christ
 - a. Virgin birth - Isa. 7:14
 - b. Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
 - c. Infant in Egypt - Hosea 11:1
 - d. Out of Israel - Num. 24:17
 - e. Seed of David - Jer. 22:30; John 7:42
 - f. Seed of Abraham - Gal. 3:16
 - g. Childhood in Nazareth - Matt. 2:23
 - h. Infanticide by Herod - Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:17-18
 - I. Star - Num. 24:17

- C. Power - Eccl. 8:4; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 2 Tim. 2:9; Heb. 4:12
1. Preserved perfectly in spite of enemies - Psalm 12:6-7; Jer. 36
 - a. Mathematical - "13" (Gen. 14:4) - 13:13 - "curse" Gal. 3:13; Acts 13:39
 - b. Scientific and historical evidences - Heb. 11:1
 2. Preservation of world - Matt. 24:35; Heb. 1:3
 3. Conversion of Paul - Acts 8-9
 4. The triune republic of the united States of America - Isa. 33:22
 5. Common sayings
 6. You
 - a. The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible.
 - b. What you do with the Bible determines what God will do with you.

II. **PRAY** - Psalm 119:12, 18, 27, 33, 34, 64, 66, 80; James 1:5

- A. Author
1. Jesus Christ - Luke 24:31-32; 45
 2. Holy Ghost - John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21
- B. Requests
1. Believing heart - Ex. 28:3; 31:6; Deut. 5:29; 6:5-6; 1 Kings 3:9; Prov. 16:23; 17:16;
 2. Humble mind - Phil. 2:5; James 4:6, 10 Luke 8:15
 3. Willing spirit - 1 Chron. 28:9-10; John 7:16-17; Rom. 12:1-2
 4. Open eyes - Psalm 119:18; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:9-17
 - a. Spiritual guidance through man (touch) - Matt. 9:27-30; 20:30-34
 - b. Humbling from God (spit) - Mark 8:22-26; Matt. 11:6; 13:19; 15:21-28; John 6:61
 - c. Humbling experiences of earth (spit & clay) - John 9:1-7
 - d. Diligent search of faith (no touch) - Mark 10:46-52
 5. Open ears - Rev. 2:7
- C. Pray to **SEE WHAT GOD SAYS** - Luke 6:46; 2 Thess. 3:1-2

III. **READ** - Isaiah 34:16 Most read books about the Bible rather than the Bible itself.

- A. Favorite sayings of Jesus
 - 1. Have ye not read? - Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31
 - 2. He that hath ears to hear let him hear - Rev. 2-3
- B. Benefits of reading
 - 1. Basic stories - 2 Kings 22:8-10
 - 2. Arouses curiosity - Neh. 8:8
 - 3. Cleans mind - Joshua 8:34-35; Psalm 119:9
 - 4. Reveals the truth of God - Acts 8:30; 1 Timothy 4:13, 16
- C. Plans for reading the Bible - chapters in OT (929); NT (260); Bible (1189)
 - 1. Once a year - 3 @ day on weekdays; 4 @ day on weekends
 - 2. Three times a year - 10 @ day
 - 3. Seven times in a year - 10 @ day plus a Psalm and a Proverb daily
- D. What you do with the Bible determines what God will do with you.
 - 1. Prudent - Job 23:12; Proverbs 2:1-11; 14:15, 18; Jer. 15:16
 - 2. Pervert - Jer. 23:36; 2 Cor. 2:17

IV. **STUDY - 2 Timothy 2:15**

- A. Interpretation of the Scriptures
 - 1. Interpretation - to explain the meaning of words to a person who does not understand them; the act of expounding what is not understood or not obvious
 - a. The Bible means what it says and says what it means.
 - b. Making the unclear, clear.
 - c. Making the complex, simple. (Common sense - **simple overrules complex**.)
 - d. Studying a road map - national, state, city, local
 - 2. Stud ... students ... strength ... Proverbs 15:28; 24:5; Isaiah 28:9-10, 13
 - 3. Three vital books of men that help, but could hinder one's interpretation
 - a. Old English Dictionary - Oxford, 1828 Webster's English Dictionary
 - b. Strong's Concordance (A Bible computer program locates words & phrases.)
 - c. Dispensational Truth - Clarence Larkin (Common Man's Reference Bible)
 - 4. Divine Revelation - Vatican Council II (Inspiration & Interpretation - pp. 11-13)
 - a. Peter - 2 Peter 1:19-21 - Author is only qualified Interpreter.
 - b. Levitical married priests - Ezra 7:6-10; Mal. 2:1-8
- B. The Interpreter of the Scriptures is God, the Holy Ghost - 1 Cor. 2:9-16
 - 1. First occurrence - Gen. 40:8; 41:15-16
 - 2. Second major occurrence - Daniel 2:22-30; 5:12
 - 3. Other occurrences - Judges 7:15; Prov. 1:6; Eccl. 8:1
 - 4. Interpretation is associated with translation - John 1:42; 9:7; Acts 9:36
- C. The Three Methods of Interpretation (C's) - 1 Corinthians 2:9-16
 - 1. **Comparison** - 1 Cor. 2:13
 - a. New wine (22 occurrences throughout Bible) - Matt. 26:29; Isa. 65:8; Gen. 40:10
 - 1.) Strong's definition vs. Scriptures - Prov. 3:10; Hosea 4:11; 9:2
 - 2.) Vinegar with gall - Matt. 27:34, 48; Deut. 32:31-33

- b. One (1967 occurrences throughout the Bible) - John 10:30; Deut. 6:4 (Gen. 1:26)
 - 1.) Personal Bible study is key. - Gen. 11:6; 41:26; Matt. 19:6; 1 Cor. 3:8; Eph. 4:4-7
 - 2.) Tri-unity (1x1x1=1) - Godhead (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9)
- c. Leviathan - Job 41:1
 - 1.) Strong's definition
 - 2.) Scholar's definitions - whale, crocodile, hippo, sea monster, dinosaur, insect, etc.
 - 3.) Bible usage - Psalm 104:26; 74:14; Isaiah 27:1; Revelation 12:3-4, 9
 - 4.) Physical description of leviathan in Job 41:1-5, 33-34
 - a.) Appearance as an angel of light - 2 Cor. 11:13-15
 - b.) Absolute Power of God over Satan.
 - c.) Five major occasions of degradation - Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19
 - d.) Power of believer - Luke 10:17-20; 1 Cor. 14:34
 - e.) Spiritual weapons - Matt. 12:28-30; Mark 9:29; Luke 11:18-22; Acts 19:13-20; 2 Cor. 2:9-11; Eph. 6:10-20; Heb. 9:14; Revelation 12:11
- d. Definition of words by first occurrence
 - 1.) Words side-by-side - Charge - Gen. 26:5; Current - Gen. 23:16
 - 2.) Words in the verse - Environ - Josh. 7:9; Execration - Jer. 42:18
 - 3.) Words in the context - Asswaged - Gen. 8:1-5; Betwixt - Gen. 17:10-11
- e. Definition of gospel - Luke 4:18 w/ Isaiah 61:1
- f. Definition of epistle - Acts 23:33-34
- 2. **Context** - common sense study by a sound mind - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - a. Private interpretation for the mass - John 6:51-57, 63
 - b. Private interpretation for water baptism - John 3:1-8; Acts 2:38, 44; 1 Peter 3:20-21
 - c. Private interpretation for tongues - Mark 16:14-20
 - d. Private interpretation for Book of Mormon - Ezekiel 37:15-24
 - e. Honest approach to Proverbs 26:4-5
 - f. Counterfeit interpretation, quotation, or translation - Luke 4:10-11 w/ Ps. 91:11-12
- 3. **Contrast** - 1 Kings 3:9-12; 1 Corinthians 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:15
 - a. People Addressed - 1 Cor. 10:32 - Jew, Gentile, church of God (Christian)
 - 1.) Who is talking?
 - 2.) Who is listening?
 - a.) Isaiah 1:2; 34:1; Jer. 22:29; Matt. 7:1, 5; Rom. 2:1, 17; 7:1; James 1:1
 - b.) Mark 16:14-20
 - c.) Romans 4:5 vs. James 2:14-26
 - d.) Acts 2:38; 8:15-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-7
 - b. Doctrinal Time Period
 - 1.) First or Second Coming of Jesus Christ - Luke 4:16-30 w/ Isaiah 61:1-2 (Gen. 3:15; 49:24; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Luke 1:30-33; 1 Peter 1:10-11)
 - 2.) Kingdom of Heaven vs. Kingdom of God - Luke 16:16; 17:20-21; Rom. 14:17 (Matthew 25:14-30 vs. Luke 19:10-27)
 - a.) Physical kingdom - physical weapons without (Violent - Matthew 11:12)
 - b.) Spiritual kingdom - spiritual weapons within

- 3.) Old Testament vs. New Testament - Hebrews 9:16-17
 - a.) Matthew 19:16-21 vs. Acts 16:30-31
 - b.) Deuteronomy 30:11-14 vs. Romans 10:5-8
 - c.) Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38
- 4.) *Last days* - Gen. 49:1; Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:1
 - a.) Private interpretation is church age - Acts 2:17; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:1
 - b.) Bible usage determines definition - Gen. 49:1; Isa. 2:2; Micah 4:1; Joel 2:28
 - c.) Doctrinal time period - Hebrews 1:1; James 5:3; 2 Peter 3:3
 - d.) *The end* - Dan. 9:26; 12:4; Matt. 24:13-21; 1 Cor. 15:23-24; Heb. 3:14
 - e.) *Selah* - 2 Kings 14:7; Psalms (71 occurrences); Isa. 16:1-4; Hab. 3:3, 9, 15
- 5.) Private interpretation of Sabbath - Genesis 2:1
 - a.) Sign - Exodus 31:12-18; Neh. 9:13-14; Ezekiel 20:20; 1 Corinthians 1:22
 - b.) NT adjustments - Romans 13:9-10; Colossians 2:16-17
 - c.) Saul's obedience to Deuteronomy 13; Paul's adjustment in 2 Cor. 10:3-6
- c. Doctrine vs. Devotion (Instructional, spiritual, or practical application)
 - 1.) Doctrine = God's viewpoint from heavenly perspective (understanding)
 - a.) Primary reason for the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - b.) Proper reaction to doctrine is belief - Romans 10:16-17
 - c.) Main doctrine for God is Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d.) God receives the blessing of doctrine.
 - e.) An overbalance on doctrine can be dry and dull.
 - 2.) Devotion = man's viewpoint from earthly perspective (knowledge & wisdom)
 - a.) Secondary reason for the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - b.) Possible applications - doctrinal, historical, national, practical, spiritual, devotional, prophetic, instruction - Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - c.) Main doctrine for man is salvation of the soul. - John 20:30-31
 - d.) Proper reaction to devotional is obedience.
 - e.) Man receives the benefits of obedience to practical truths.
 - f.) Overbalance of devotion can be shallowness.
 - g.) Psalm 15 - devotional vs. doctrinal
- d. Seven sevens
 - 1.) Covenants - Exodus 24:7; 2 Kings 23:2
 - 2.) Baptisms - Ephesians 4:5 vs. Hebrews 6:2
 - 3.) Mysteries - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
 - 4.) Seven Phases of Dispensation for Personal Salvation - righteous vs. saved
 - 5.) Judgments (Seven Crowns) - Matthew 25:31-46 vs. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11
 - 6.) Areas to not Ignore - Romans 1:13
 - 7.) Gospels - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- D. Study sound words with a sound mind to obtain sound doctrine. - Titus 2:1
 1. Sound = founded in truth; free from error; healthy and clear mind
 2. Sound doctrine = absolute truth with no flaws (Titus 2:8)
 3. Convinces sincere (Titus 1:9-13), but condemns insincere (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
 4. Soundness - Psalm 119:80; Proverbs 2:7; 3:21; 1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 1:7, 13

V. **FEAR** - Proverbs 13:13; Isaiah 66:2, 5

A. Proper fear - Psalm 119:38, 63, 120; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10

1. Two attitudes toward God's word - Exodus 5:9; 9:20-21
2. Ezra's attitude - Ezra 7:6, 10; 9:1-4; 10:3
3. Fear of fire - Exodus 20:20; Philippians 2:12
 - a. God - Hebrews 12:28-29
 - b. Second Coming - Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 14:12; Mal. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:8
 - c. Angels - Judges 13:19-20; Hebrews 1:7
 - d. Israel - Obad. 17-21; Mal. 3:6
 - e. Sacrifices - Lev. 1-5
 - f. Judgment Seat of Christ - 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10-11
 - g. Hell - Matt. 5:22; Mark 9:42-48; Rev. 21:8

B. Improper fear - 2 Timothy 1:7

1. Man - Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:28
2. No fear - Psalm 36:1; Job 41:33; Rom. 3:19; James 2:19
 - a. FDR - We have nothing to fear, but fear itself.
 - b. False Evidence Appearing Real

C. Beware of Deception - Deut. 11:16; Matt. 24:4; 1 Tim. 2:13-15; 4:16

1. Exaltation of self - Jer. 23:26; Obad. 3; 1 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 6:3; 1 John 1:8
2. Rejection of truth - 1 Kings 22; Jer. 20:7; Ezek. 14:9; 2 Thess. 2:10-12
3. The most effective source for deception is good words from good men. - 1 Kings 13
 - a. Good for food - Genesis 3:6
 - b. Good words - Romans 16:18
 - c. Good Book - Luke 4:10-11
4. Discretion - Proverbs 2:11; Proverbs 14:15; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21
5. Guidance of man - Proverbs 14:15; Acts 8:30-31

D. Truth is truth and error is error no matter who says it. - 1 John 4:6

1. Acceptance of truth from disliked source keeps the listener humble.
2. Acceptance of truth from approved source keeps the speaker humble.

E. Proper fear should produce obedience to instructions - Deuteronomy 13:4; 1 Samuel 12:14

F. Balance between love and fear - Deuteronomy 10:12; 1 John 4:18

VI. **OBEY** - Job 28:28; Proverbs 3:1-6 - By-products of obedience...

(Obey doctrine by belief - 1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thess. 1:8; Romans 10:16-17)

A. Proves love to God - Deut. 30:19-20; John 14:15, 23; 1 John 5:1-3

1. Abraham - Genesis 22:12
2. Peter - John 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

B. Reveals more light of God - Psalm 119:105

1. Light accepted reveals more light - Jeremiah 13:1-11; 18:1-10
2. Light ignored becomes lightning - Jonah 1:1; 3:1
3. Light rejected becomes blindness - Isaiah 6:9-10; Hosea 4:6; Romans 11; 2 Peter 3:16

C. Preparation for Judgment Seat of Christ - Colossians 1:21-29 (blameless)

VII. **VOICE** - Ezra 7:10; Psalm 119:27; John 1:23; Romans 10:14-17

A. Dead Sea is dead and stagnant. It is 25% more salty than the ocean

1. Dead Sea receives, but never gives out.
2. Sponge is take-n-give.
3. Revelation 3:14-22 - lukewarm is stagnant.

B. Two ways to use voice - Psalm 119:171-172

1. Praise to God - Psalm 119:7, 14, 62, 97, 103, 162, 164

- a. Joseph - Genesis 41:15-16
- b. Daniel 2:14-23
- c. Philippians 4:15-19
- d. Delight because you saw de light - Psalm 119:130

2. Preach to man - Psalm 119:13, 27, 42-43, 46

- a. The one who hears from God desires to tell others - Prov. 21:28; Psalm 71:14-24
- b. There are no permanent silent witnesses in the Bible. - Luke 14:23; Acts 20:20
- c. Real learning comes through preparation to teach or write - Heb. 5:12; 2 Tim. 2:2
- d. Beg the Teacher to teach through you - Acts 4:13, 31; 5:32; Rev. 22:17

1.) First works - Revelation 2:5; Acts 19:1-7; Eph. 1:12-14; 6:10-20

2.) Seven spirits of God - Isaiah 11:2; Daniel 5:12

e. Pray for Divine Appointments - Colossians 4:3-6

1). Prayer for Individual - 2 Thessalonians 3:1

2). Prayer against Interference - Mark 3:27; Ephesians 6:12

--I expose all enemies of Jesus Christ operative against (person, situation).
I sever you from Satan and any power above you. I remove your ability to afflict, hinder, or blind _____ and proclaim your judgment.
I weaken you with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the authority of Jesus Christ I bind all unclean spirits and devils present together and declare _____ loosed from your power. I command you to go where Jesus Christ tells you to go by the voice of the Holy Ghost.

CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF SEVEN STEPS

John 8:31-32; Colossians 1:23; James 1:25

An adamant or fanatical about the words of the Book.

Job 23:12; Psalm 119:161-164; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4

1 Corinthians 9:25 - precise perfection