



“But others fell on good ground and yielded
a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty.”

– Matthew 13:8

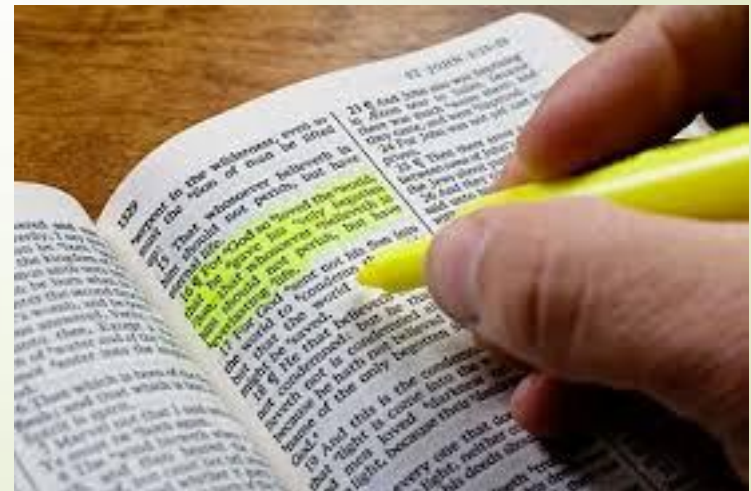
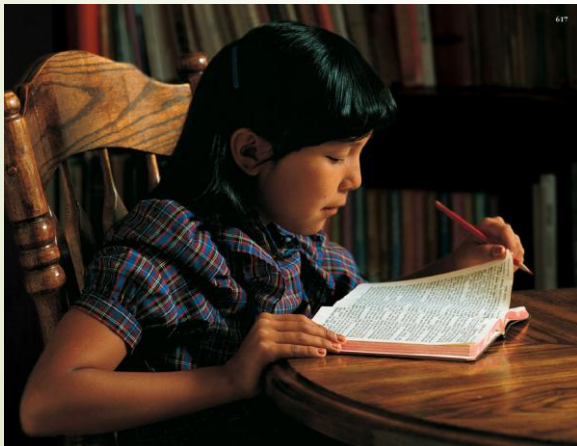


The Good Ground

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Matt. 7:19)

1. Consistent Reading

- ▶ We have many ways to read and/or listen to Scripture
- ▶ To make reading the Holy Bible a habit, try to tie it to a consistent part of your daily routine, e.g., studying, lunch break, etc.





2. Correct Understanding

- "...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**" (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
- "...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..." (1 Pet. 2:2)

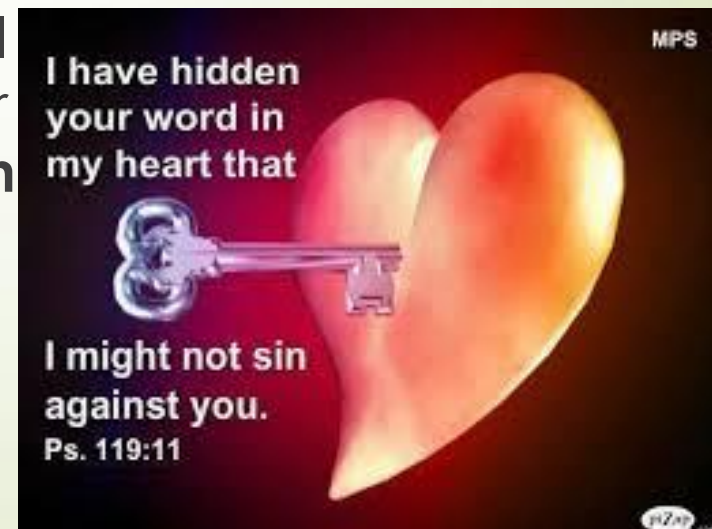
3. Meditate on the Word of God

- “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season...” (Ps. 1:2-3)
- The Word must be engrained in our minds and hearts
 - EX: St. Mary
 - EX: St. Stephen



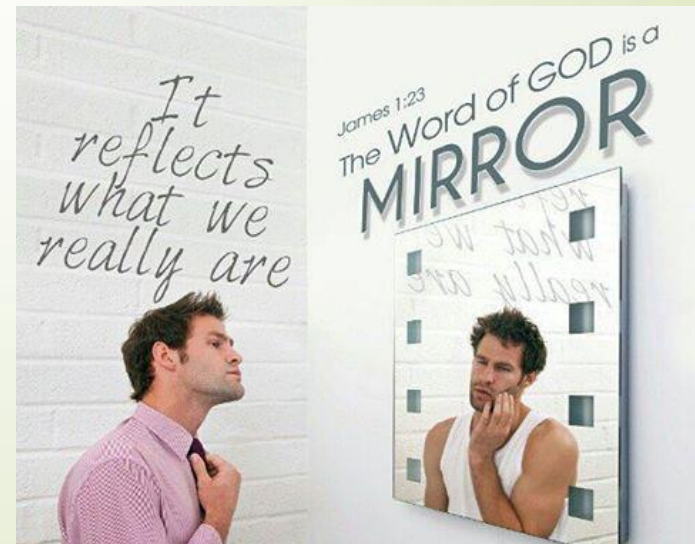
3. Meditate on the Word of God

- Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Ps. 119:11)
- “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.**”
(Deut. 6:6-9)



4. Purify Your Heart

- Do not hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart
- “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (Jn. 15:1-2)
- Do not be a forgetful man
 - “For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.” (Jam. 1:23-24)





Cooperate with the Word of God

- There are different types of commandments
- Commandments to refrain (“Do not...”)
- Commandments to do
 - “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (Lk. 6:37)
 - “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.” (1 Thes. 5:16-18)



Cooperate with the Word of God

- Commandments that encourage
 - “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Lk. 12:32)
 - “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Is. 41:10)
- Verses that reveal to me who I am in Christ Jesus
 - “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.” (Eph. 5:30)
 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” (1 Pet. 2:9)



Conclusion

- “...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim. 3:15)
- To be good ground we need to:
 - Consistent Reading
 - Correct Understanding
 - Meditate on the Word of God
 - Purification of the heart
 - Cooperate with the Word of God