

Bible: not written to satisfy curiosity, but to transform lives  
Once having observed and interpreted the Scripture, you apply the truth of God's word

Observation & interpretation w/out application = abortion  
Intellectually fascinating, spiritually frustrating  
Tragic story of Kitty Genovese

Mother Barry obeyed Jn 12:24, her life = dying kernel of wheat, serving Korean students through Bible study

Apply biblical truth to areas where we're already applying it, not to new areas

⑦ no noticeable change in our lives

Businessman reads Eph 4:25, only thinks of the areas where he's already honest  
with wife, children, associates at work  
but partially honest with competitors  
he never thinks of that area

Whenever the truth gets too convicting, you've got reasons why it applies to everyone but you  
Defending ourselves and rationalizing sin

Emotional experience = not our only response  
After a sermon some come by with tears. Then they go home to watch soccer ⑦ no change  
Real change begins in the will  
Make a volitional decision in response to what you heard God saying

We think if we can speak convincingly about Scripture, we're covered  
We've caused others to believe that we've got the biblical truth down  
God knows and looks at our hearts (1Sam 16:7)

Receive forgiveness of sins  
Become God's children

Being thoroughly equipped  
to do good works that glorify God  
to bless others  
Disciples of Jesus can be produced through us

Tendency to apply the truths to others, finding all the ways they can improve  
"Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church" (Eph 5); Women apply this to husbands

Applying the truths to ourselves first

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves" (2Co 13:5a)

Coming to see ourselves as God sees us

God knows everything about everyone  
As we look into the Bible we need to think of each passage as a mirror  
Mirrors reveal our true appearance and help us find anything that needs to be changed  
Studying the Word w/out being changed = seeing in a mirror you're a mess, yet doing nothing

God's word = ultimate mirror, power to transform  
God's word convicts of sinful habits, leads to repentance, enables to live a new life in the Spirit  
The word of God reveals truth and activates truth when the Spirit uses it in a person's life  
Change after looking into the Word with sincerity

4 steps with 4 C's

Come to the word = someone comes to a mirror  
Come by means of careful Observation and accurate Interpretation  
The better you understand the passage, the better you will use it

We are reprov'd and corrected by the truth revealed. (2Tim 3:16)

Scripture highlights sin, what we need to stop doing (one reason why many people avoid Bible study)

God doesn't delight in exposing our sinfulness?

Diagnosing the disease = first step in curing it

No transformation w/out understanding what needs transformation

Be convicted of sin before you can be freed from it

Scripture leads to repentance

The Word reveals God's provision for what is good, which creates motivation that convinces us to walk in newness of life

If we're open to it, Scripture will convince us to pursue new paths by showing us examples

Living differently = result of our exposure to the truth

Transformation begins the moment we come to faith, which is why we refer to that milestone as conversion

True conversion = ongoing process of becoming like Christ, which doesn't end until we go to be with Christ

What significant changes is that mirror challenging you to make, by God's grace?

People let the Word get serious with them

True conversion = change of behavior born out of change of heart

Tendency to apply truths of the Bible in changing bad habits and behavior

Repeated failure because behavioral problems are rooted in deeper aspects of our being

The surface of the third sector can be easily described and used by others

The inner part of each sector is more complicated and conceptual

Uncovering value system and worldview to effectively change visual behavior

Modern education system indoctrinates to believe in evolutionary theory

They see everything through the lens of science

Becoming skeptical, relativistic, amoral, denying the Creator, being left with no meaning or purpose

☐ worldview affects every aspect of being

**should be changed through the word of God**

⑦ lifestyle and behavior will naturally change

After a painful betrayal (broken relationship), souls are often deeply wounded

Wounds are expressed in mistrust and fear

When we confront associated situations, we naturally respond in ways that are unhealthy

We may not be aware of our wounds and how our behavior is related

Instead of focusing on behavior problems, **find the wounds that are rooted in our hearts**

When discovering root causes, two responses:

Despair and give up trying to solve the problem because it is too hard

Determine to solve it by ourselves

self-righteousness and legalistic attitude

no real solution

based on own effort to solve the problem

both rooted in pride

Only God can solve root problems

Come to Jesus with **repentance and faith**

Jesus' message

"The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news" (Mk 1:15)

Misunderstanding repentance as making a list of bad deeds and resolving to do better

Another effort at self-improvement

**This always fails, for no one can solve their root problem by own effort**

Not meaning of repentance but legalistic approach

Truly coming to Jesus

Acknowledging our sin

Asking his grace and mercy

Believing the gospel

⑦ Spirit works in hearts to resolve root problems

Fundamental solution = in the gospel of Jesus

Gospel should not be applied shallowly and superficially, like a “cure-all”

Some people claim that since they repented one time, they never need to repent again

Others claim that they have a ticket to heaven no matter how they live

They ignore the importance of ongoing, daily struggle

Jesus: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23)

St. Paul practiced this lifestyle

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20)

Believing the gospel = to have a relationship with Jesus (vine & branches, shepherd & sheep)

As we follow Jesus, he helps us to apply the gospel in specific ways that touch the real-life problems of each person

Someone may have been wounded by a terrible experience with evil

Though they have accepted the gospel, this wound remains in their hearts

They need to believe that **Jesus was wounded in our places**, by his wounds we are healed (1Pe 2:24)

Someone was pierced by death’s power and fell into despair and drank alcohol excessively

Though they have accepted the gospel, they struggle to overcome their addiction

They need to believe that **Christ rose from the dead and conquered death’s power**, giving us eternal life and living hope in God’s kingdom

Someone has been paralyzed by the power of sin and suffered under guilt and shame

Though they have accepted the gospel, they continue to struggle with bondage to sin, and receive his forgiveness (1Jn 1:9)

Or, it may be that someone has suffered from the results of generational sin and curse

They need to believe that **the blood of Jesus redeems us** from the empty way of life handed down to us from our ancestors (1Pe 1:18-19)

Gospel has power to free from all root problems

When we believe the gospel sincerely, the Spirit is supernaturally at work within us

⑦ transformed behavior, relationships, lifestyle

In western culture, we emphasize individuality

Gospel application must begin in personal lives

But it must not stop there

Going beyond ourselves to families, campuses, workplaces, communities, nations, the world

The world begins to change when one person changes through the word of God

Know the text

diligent observation, careful interpretation

Know yourself

Pay attention to yourself and your teaching (1Tim 4:16)

What are your assets? What are your liabilities?

The working word

new insights effect

a series of new relationships

The working word

exposes your sin

gives you God’s promises and commands

gives you examples to follow

Pondering the truth with a view to letting it help and readjust our lives

Essential to the step of Application

Key to spiritual prosperity = to meditate on the Word day and night (Jos 1:8, Ps 1:1-2)

Memory provides the mind with the fuel it needs to make meditation profitable

Memory = key to meditation

Meditation = key to changing my outlook

Ultimate goal of Bible study = to practice the truth

„Fight to win“ ⑦ message of the Word

Some area of my life for which the truth is needed?

Two sides to Christian living: you need food, and you need exercise

Food is transformed to energy, and energy enables you to do what God wants you to do

Internalizing God's words

God's words sink deeply into our minds and gradually to our hearts and transform our inner thoughts and attitudes

They shine the light of God's presence and dispel all negative elements of our lives

They become the power source to live a godly life in the midst of dark surroundings

God's words protect us from temptations

They become a shield against the dangers around us

They rescue us from despair, turn discouragement into encouragement, give us hope and vision

Children's hearts are pure – like a blank slate

Whatever is impressed in their hearts, remains throughout their lifetimes

Constantly engaging with God's word, wherever we are, whatever we do (Dt 6:7-9)

Great help in internalizing Bible verses

When we are confused about how to prioritize, we can write Mt 6:33 repeatedly until it becomes the truth that guides our actions

When we are having a hard time loving our brothers in Christ, we can write Jn 13:34-35

Some people write down entire books of Scripture as the expression of love and obedience toward God

“...who meditates on his law day and night.” (Ps 1:2b)

Hebrew word translated “meditate”: “hgh” (hgh)

Literal meaning: “to coo, growl, mutter, read in an undertone, to speak, proclaim”

It implies: “to think intently and at length, as for spiritual purposes”

*“Chewing over the Bible; thinking it through; unfolding the meaning of a passage; a daily time of meditation. Meditations is the process of thinking through a biblical concept over and over again, seeing its implications and applications in every area of our lives. The more we think, consider and ‘chew’ over the idea, the more we see just how it applies to our own lives.”*  
(Dr. Samuel G. Lee, quoting Brian M. Abshine)

Meditation is like deep sea diving

When we remain on the surface of the water, we cannot see what lies below

When we put on fins and go snorkeling, we can discover many kinds of beautiful treasures

We try to understand the meaning of the Bible

But it does not become clear right away

If we give up trying, we will not understand

We must keep asking the meaning until we find

When we read “Christ died for our sins” (1Co 15:3), it is a simple statement

When we really want to know the meaning, questions arise in our heart

“How is the death of Jesus, who shed his blood 2,000 years ago, related to me?”

“How can one person's death atone for the sins of all people?”

“Is Jesus' death effective enough to cleanse all of my sins, past, present and future?”

As we let the Bible verse remain in our hearts, such questions keep arising

As we find the answers one by one, we will understand the deep meaning of the verse

“Pay attention to it, as to a light shining in dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” (2Pe 1:19)

When having fully meditated on the words of God ⑦ write down what you have learned

This struggle causes to logical and systematical thinking about the inspiration having received

We can more clearly understand its meaning

It helps us to remember what we have learned and to put our thoughts in language that can be communicated with others

This process enables us to grow and can bring healing to our wounds

We can be a witness to others by sharing what we have learned with them (Ac 1:8b; 13:20)

When sharing reflections in small groups = being prayerful about the dynamics of the group and setting some guidelines

Reflection sharing = sincere struggle with God’s words, recognizing the presence of the Holy Spirit in the meeting

Sincere confessions

Environment of mutual participation, honesty, growing together

Increasing love, understanding of one another

As we hear other’s reflections, especially the confession of their secret sins, we should not be critical or gossip about it

Pray for them, encourage and protect them

Also examining ourselves

Dangers

When it becomes a regular practice, we can develop a sense of duty or a legalistic mindset

When we keep up the practice regularly, we can become self-righteous and judgmental

If we fail to write and share a reflection, we can fall into self-condemnation

Jesus’ parable of the wise builder (Mt 7:24-27)

Those who listen to his words but do not put them into practice = foolish builders who build their house on the sand

Their houses will fall in life storms

Those who put his words into practice are like wise builders who dig down deep and lay the foundation on rock

When the storm comes, their houses stand

After Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he said, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (Jn 13:17)

*“Teaching is learning”*

When we teach the words of God, the Holy Spirit works in and through both the Bible teacher and the Bible student

He gives us new insights that we can share

Then we both grow joyfully and enjoy a dynamic relationship in Christ

We develop a genuine trust relationship and can share the real issues of our hearts

If we maintain a top down method of downloading information, it becomes oppressive and boring

Neither the persons can grow much, nor their relationship will last long

We have thought of some specific ways of internalizing the words of God

But we should realize that the word of God is living and active, and eternal

We cannot confine the work of God’s word to a method

Methods should be flexible

Each person is different

What is very effective for one person may not be so for another

Some people are very well disciplined, it is easy for them to write and share something

Others have a hard time writing things down

But they may be good talkers who can figure things out while they speak

We need to consider each person’s character, personality, spiritual maturity, and way of learning in helping them to internalize God’s words

When we do something out of a sense of obligation, it is burdensome

If we love it, we are willing to do it joyfully  
Loving the word of God is the most important motivation for Bible study  
Purpose of this presentation is to inspire love for the word of God, like that of newborn babies who crave pure spiritual milk (1Pe 2:2)  
Then we can grow up in our salvation and taste that the Lord is good

When we apply God's words through repentance and faith in the gospel, the Spirit works in and through us  
Spirit transforms us to be like Jesus (Rom 8:29)  
We bear good fruit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal 5:22-23)

We become blessed people, like a tree planted by streams of water (Ps 1:2-3)  
Transformation = nothing short of a miracle  
Selfish to sacrificial  
Proud to humble  
Lazy to hardworking  
Critical to compassionate  
Rebellious to obedient  
Stingy to generous

The wounded are healed and become healthy  
People find true joy of growing in Jesus' likeness; they find meaning of life  
They enjoy the blessing and become a blessing  
They reveal the beauty of the gospel and become a good influence  
☑ most effective way of spreading the gospel

God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)  
What never changes = our essential personhood, core identity  
Who we are: God's workmanship  
Where we come from: created in Christ  
Why we are: for good works  
When we were made: which God prepared beforehand  
Wherefore we should live: walk in the good works

*Workmanship*: made thing, carefully designed and put together, not by accident or chance; useful thing.

*Good works*: each piece of workmanship has specific good works it was designed to do. Tasks with your name on them. Christians have a difficult time figuring out their purpose in life because they don't understand their design well. Some who do understand something of their design are not using it.

*Beforehand*: eternal, triune God determined that He wanted certain good works carried out in 21st century. To that end He created and designed you.  
*Walk*: means to live. The term has to do with daily life – at work, at home, in your community. Every day you need to be pursuing the purpose for which God put you on the planet.

Be who you are  
We don't have to „become“ someone else for God to work in our life  
We never have to change who we are  
Mistaken idea: become like some other saint to experience God's best  
Always be who God made **you** to be  
Learn from others

Old versus New (2Cor 5:17)  
The same person who had an old life now has a new relationship with Christ  
The same person becomes an altogether different creature  
We're the same person, but a new version of that person  
God is making us into what He meant us to be when He originally thought us up: His workmanship, His masterpiece

We are His workmanship: entire church  
Christianity: not isolation, but community –community of believers *in* Christ, of those who are being transformed *by* Christ  
„It's all about me“  
We think the Bible is all about me  
Mt 6:10: *Thy* kingdom come, *Thy* will be done  
Eph 2:10: It's not about me. It's about God. I was made to fit in God's plan, not the other way around.

Change comes about when God's truth transforms my life, so that I begin to live out God's purposes for me

I then discover that God's truth is also transforming countless other individuals around the world

Wadani tribe of Ecuador (Aucas)

4 ways in which our individuality affects application

Our Education, Emphasis, Execution, Excellence

By „customizing“ the truth of the Word, we are not accommodating that truth to our own opinions and preferences

There's no room for „customization“ in the step of Interpretation

When it comes to Application, each of us brings unique strengths and limitations to the task, by virtue of our God-given design

By accepting that design and cooperating with the way it works, we are more likely to practice God's word in the particular way He meant it to apply to us

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a prayer to repeat?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a condition to meet?

Is there a verse to memorize?

Is there an error to mark? What changes do I need to make in my thinking?

Is there a challenge to face?

Never-changing truth in an ever-changing world

The word of God is eternal and unchanging, but our world is not

Context, context, context

The more we know about the culture in which a passage was written and to which it was originally applied, the more accurate will be our understanding and the more we'll be able to make use of it in our own cultural setting

We've got to understand our own culture. Where are we in need of biblical truth? What are the cultural dynamics that make the practice of truth difficult at times? What influences our spiritual attitudes and behavior?

What would Paul be saying to us if they were writing to our churches today?

Where would Christ be active if He walked among us now?

Where is God working today, and how can I get involved in it?

Power: Who is in charge?

Communication: How is the news and information distributed?

Money and economics: How do people earn a living?

Ethnicity: What peoples make up the culture?

Gender: What are the roles of men and women?

Generations: How are families structured?

Religion and worldview: What are the dominant religions?

The arts: What is the art saying about the people in the culture?

History and time: What myths have been passed down?

Place: Where is the culture situated geographically?

Resources: What natural resources does the society possess?

Bible tells us the fundamental truths or principles that God wants us to apply across the entire range of human need

1Cor 8: It gives us principles for conscience, tolerance, respect for other believers, and sensitivity to their backgrounds

Biography: the life of Daniel: What is it in his experience that resonates with real life?

Principles should correlate with the general teaching of Scripture

Believers should respect authorities (Prov 20:2)

Concordance: Rom 13:1-7; 1Pe 2:13-17

Be careful in generalizing the Scripture. It's not that we can't apply the Word broadly, but let's apply it sensibly, consistently

Look for general truths from Scripture that might apply to the contemporary situation

One man initiated a study of Nehemiah. One of the first things he encountered was the prayer in Chapter 1. It dawned on him, *“When was the last time I ever prayed for the people in my company?”*

*"The best ideas in the world are useless until someone goes to work on them."* (Peter Drucker)

God's word was given not to tease our curiosity, but to transform our lives  
What am I going to do with this truth? When, where, how am I going to apply it?

As we formulate principles from God's word, we should check our thinking with other believers who know the Word and are walking with God  
Who is your shepherd/Bible teacher?

In busy situations we have to rely on whatever reservoirs of knowledge and experience we bring to the moment  
What biblical database do we bring to the situation?  
We don't have time for an intensive study. What are we going to use in the moment?

If we stock up on principles from Scripture, we'll have a powerful set of resources to deal with situations of life  
Principles enable us to multiply truth

Where do I begin?  
Make a decision to change  
clearly defined objectives  
Come up with a plan  
The more specific your plan, the more likely you'll succeed  
Follow through  
Checklist, personal reflection

*"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12)*  
You take responsibility for making choices and taking action in order to grow as a believer  
Never forget the other side: *"For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure"* (Phil 2:13)  
As you set your objectives, make plans, and carry them out, God is right there with you. You're never alone. God provides His resources to help you in the process.

Begin a personal Bible study program

Determine your objectives  
Establish your priorities  
Set a schedule  
Develop discipline  
Getting started

Form a small Bible study group  
Effective / motivating: team > solo  
Leadership is the key  
Don't be afraid of the hard question  
Answer: *"I don't know. But I'll try to find out."*

Share your results with others  
You're in debt  
You've got to share it with someone else  
Share it by teaching, Bible study, living the results

Importance for Application  
5 Substitutes for Application  
Purpose of Bible Study  
Process  
4 Steps of Application  
Guidelines for Application  
Fruit of Application

Relativism: ignore and not listen to God's word  
Deceived by the teachings and lies of Satan  
Most important task as Bible teachers to correctly handle the word of truth (2Ti 2:15)

Inductive Bible study equips us to know the truth of God's word and experience the power which transforms lives  
Through Inductive Bible study, we can grow as influential, professional Bible teachers and leaders