



1.19.2020
Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

Start with the Heart

The Approach • Heart Postures 1 – 3

Approaching Your Bible Is First and Foremost a HEART Issue – Psalm 119

“With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.” (10)

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” (11)

“The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Your precepts.” (69)

“May my heart be blameless in Your statutes, So that I will not be ashamed.” (80)

“I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, even to the end.” (112)

“Princes persecute me without cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your words.” (161)

“I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.” (111)

“I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.” (32)

The Goal of This Study Is Simple: OPEN Hearts with OPEN Bibles! Acts 16:14

Join Me in Praying that the LORD Will Impact 3 Kinds of People:

- People who never or RARELY opened their Bibles in 2019.
- People who opened their Bibles but NOT their hearts in 2019.
- People who opened their Bibles AND their hearts in 2019.

Three Reminders When It Comes to Approaching the Bible – Acts 16:14-15

- 1) The Approach is NOTHING... apart from the grace of God at work in our hearts.

“I shall run the way of Your commandments, for YOU will enlarge my heart.” Psalm 119:32

- 2) The Approach is EVERYTHING... in response to the grace of God.

- 3) The Approach is SOMETHING... we do by grace through faith in the LORD and His Word-Spirit.

*“If you consider me **A BELIEVER** in the Lord, come and stay at my house.” Acts 16:15 CSB*

Approaching Your Bible Starts with Your Heart

1. Approach Your Bible HUMBLY.

- God chose to SPEAK.
- God chose to speak to CREATURES made from dust.

REVELATION: God SPEAKS!

OR

SPECULATION: We GUESS!

“Your Bible is like an all-access pass into the revealed mind and heart of God.” – Matt Smethhurst

- God chose to speak to TRAITORS with rebel hearts. Genesis 3:9

2. Approach Your Bible DESPERATELY.

3 BASIC WAYS WE APPROACH OUR BIBLE...and None of Them Are Necessarily Wrong!		
Out of <u>DUTY</u> "I HAVE TO in order to STRIVE!" Luke 17:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 23:23	Out of <u>DELIGHT/DESIRE</u> "I GET TO in order to THRIVE!" Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 143, 174	Out of <u>DESPERATION</u> "I NEED TO in order to SURVIVE!" Matthew 4:4; 1Peter 2:2
"For this is no idle word for you—it is your life!" Deuteronomy 32:47 (NET)		

Questions of Desperation

- Do I approach the Bible as an *option* or a *necessity*?
- Do I approach the Bible more like a *snack for the satisfied* or a *feast for the starving*?
- Is it more accurate to say *I am willing* to hear God speak or *I am desperate* to hear God speak?
- Am I *merely interested* in the Scriptures or am I *actually internalizing* them?
- Do approach the Bible for *information* or *transformation*?

3. Approach Your Bible PRAYERFULLY.

PRAYING AND READING THE BIBLE		
BEFORE We Read! <i>Approach the Bible Prayerfully</i>	WHILE We Read! <i>Absorb the Bible Prayerfully</i>	AFTER We Read! <i>Apply the Bible Prayerfully</i>

"I am convinced that a prayerless approach to God's Word is a major reason for the low-level dissatisfaction that hums beneath the surface of our lives." – Matt Smethurst

Pray Your I.O.U.S.

I – "**INCLINE** my heart to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain." Psalm 119:36

ESV *Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!*
CSB *Turn my heart to your decrees and not to dishonest profit.*

O – "**OPEN** my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law." Psalm 119:18

CSB *Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction.*

U – "**UNITE** my heart to fear Your name." Psalm 86:11

Entire Verse: "Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name."

Literal Hebrew: "Bind my heart to the fearing of your name."

CSB *Teach me your way, LORD, and I will live by your truth. Give me an undivided mind to fear your name.*
NET *O LORD, teach me how you want me to live. Then I will obey your commands. Make me wholeheartedly committed to you.*

S – "**SATISFY** us in the morning with Your lovingkindness." Psalm 90:14

Entire Verse: O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

CSB *Satisfy us in the morning with your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days.*

The Approach Is Everything So Start with Your Heart!

Approach Your Bible Humbly – God is SPEAKING!

Approach Your Bible Desperately – We Need to STRIVE, THRIVE, and SURVIVE!

Approach Your Bible Prayerfully – I.O.U.S.!