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Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

Expect Great Joy Together!

The Approach • Heart Postures 6 – 8

Expect Great Joy Together

Three Heart Postures that Are Game Changers for Your Bible Reading!

1. Approach Your Bible **EXPECTANTLY!**

*This heart posture is a Game changer, because God's Word is a powerful **CHANGE AGENT!***

Hebrews 4:12-13; 1Peter 1: 23-25; James 1: 21-22; Romans 1:16; 10:17; 2Timothy 3:14-17

Approach Your Bible with the...

- **Expectation of REGENERATION.** 2Timothy 3:15

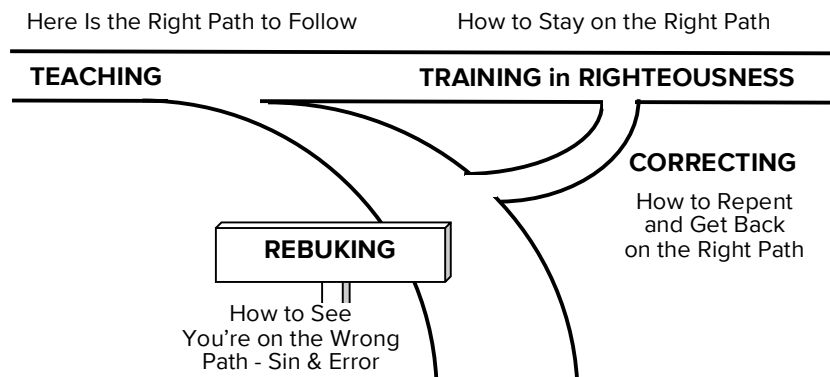
*The concept is of God renovating the heart, the core of a person's being, by implanting a new principle of desire, purpose, and action, a dispositional dynamic that finds expression in positive response to the gospel and its Christ...
Regeneration is a transition from spiritual death to spiritual life..." —J. I. Packer, Concise Theology*

The Bible is powerful for regeneration. So approach it with the expectation that you will be saved!

- **Expectation of SANCTIFICATION.** 2Timothy 3:16

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." John 17:17

The Bible Profitable for...



"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us." The Message

The Bible is profitable for sanctification. So approach it with the expectation that you will be set apart farther from sin and closer to God!

- **Expectation of QUALIFICATION.** 2Timothy 3:17

The Bible is purposeful for serving. So approach it with the expectation that you will qualified to serve God and others!

2. Approach Your Bible JOYFULLY.

Three Joy-filled Observations

- Divine joy **OVERFLOWS** to all of God's creation. 1 Chronicles 16:26-27, 31-33

"God is happy. Happier than the happiest person you've ever known...The creation of the world was an explosion of joy—not a filling up but a spilling out. Consider that for a moment: Not only the outstanding natural world, but you and I, created by God, are an overflow of His exceeding joy....You were made to be happy in God." — Matt Smethurst, Before You Open Your Bible

- Divine joy **COMPLETES** the joy of God's people. Jeremiah 15:16; John 15:11; 17:13; 1John 1:4; 2John 12
- Divine joy **NEVER** disappoints in the end.

"It is the very nature of discipline to give way to delight. Not every time, and not all at once. But steadily and increasingly until the day we see our King face-to-face and behold Him in His beauty—with joy that never ends." — Matt Smethurst, Before You Open Your Bible

3 WAYS TO APPROACH YOUR BIBLE and NONE of THEM NECESSARILY WRONG

DUTY ➡ ➡ ➡

DELIGHT

◀ ◀ ◀ DESPERATION

3. Approach Your Bible MUTUALLY.

Increasingly as People Fall Away from the Faith They Say: "I love Jesus but not the church."

But Many Church Goers May Be Thinking: "I love Jesus but don't really need the church."

Here Is What We Need Stay Focused On: "I need to love the church like Jesus loves the church."

- Approach your Bible with other **BELIEVER-PRIESTS**.

Congregationally — Acts 2:41-42; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25

Informally — Romans 15:14; Acts 18:24-26

- Approach your Bible with your **PASTOR-TEACHERS**. Ephesians 4:11-12
- Approach your Bible with your **LOST FRIENDS**.

Approach Your Bible Expecting Great Joy Together

*Experience the JOY of Discovery Together! Experience the JOY of Transformation Together!
Experience the JOY of Accountability Together!*

"This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity."

— Author Unknown