

GOD QUESTING

PART 2: The Two Testaments

Introduction – Wielding The Sword Of The Spirit

Ephesians 6:17; 1 Timothy 4:7; Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2-3

BENEFITS OF GRASPING YOUR SWORD...

- _____ Power. **Psalm 119:24, 99; Matthew 4:1-11; Philippians 4:13**
- _____ Health. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- _____ Proclamation. **Acts 2:14-40**

WIELDING IT RIGHTLY... **John 7:17; Luke 6:46**

Kinds Of Bible Input

- Bible Survey...
- Bible Study... **Ezra 7:9-10; Acts 17:11**

The Key to Getting It Right – *The Jesus Hermeneutic*:
Letting the _____ Word interpret the _____ Word.

- Bible Dialogue...
- Bible Meditation...
 - On God's Word (**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119**).
 - On God's Work (**Psalm 77:12**)
 - On God's Creation (**Psalm 143:5**)
 - On God's Character (**Psalm 63:6; 145:5**)
- Bible Memorization... **Proverbs 22:17-19; Acts 2:14-40**

Conclusion – A Final Warning

John 5:39-40

MY NEXT STEP IN SELF FEEDING WILL BE...

- a) Getting a Bible and reading the Gospel of John.
- b) Recording and bringing my questions to someone knowledgeable.
- c) Incorporating more prayer into my Bible study.
- d) Incorporating more thoughtful study into my prayer life.
- e) Taking time to meditate after I study.
- f) Turning these sermon notes into a study tool by examining every Bible reference and its context. (Getting an audio copy if some review would be helpful.)
- g) Getting audio versions of another series (see below) and actively working through the content.
- h) Other: _____

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. If you're a *LORD OF THE RINGS* fan (and hey, who isn't?!), which "sword" would you most like to wield better in your daily life... a) NARSIL, the King's Sword – the sword of wise *leadership and influence*; b) STING – the sword of *warning*, cautioning us when 'orkish' temptations are nearby and to be avoided; c) THEODEN'S SWORD – the sword of *identity*, empowering us to better understand who we are and what we were called to do in this life.
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Last week we talked about our marital intimacy with Christ. What lessons might the original readers of the New Testament draw from the fact that the same Greek word for 'knowing' is used in **Matthew 1:25** and **Matthew 7:23** (though most English translations may not make this fact clear in 1:25)?
4. On our theme of turning all conviction into conduct, read **James 1:22-27**. a) How could Bible study and/or church attendance actually become an exercise in self-deception? b) What, according to James, can we do to avoid this? c) How could you use **verses 26-27** to help someone understand the "irreligious" nature of the message of Jesus?

SO WHAT?...

5. What "next step" have you identified (see "Conclusion" above) for you to take in your journey toward having increased ownership for being a self-feeder? Pray for each other regarding this.
6. How have you done in the area of repentance you prayed about last week?

HOMEWORK...

7. Remember God calls us to quest for him with the promise that we'll find him (see **Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9**). Read two personal "quest" stories in **Luke 18:35-43** and **19:1-10**. Notice the incredible blessing each person receives *and* their role in pursuing it. Ask yourself how willing you are to be a Bartimaeus or a Zaccheus, to call out (when told by others to be quiet) and/or climb trees (when you are short and feel ill equipped for the task) to actively investigate or pursue intimacy with Jesus. *Pray* your way through these stories after pondering your way through, pausing to talk to God about your own life in light of each verse. End by meditating on one verse or phrase.
8. Set aside time this week to meditate on **Psalm 119** and to ask God for an experience of similar delight in his Word.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 11 / 18, 2004