



*Series Title—Spiritual Growth*

*Part Two—Your Full Attention*

*Proverbs 4:20-22*

*Pastor Dan Turpin      WestCoastChurch.com*

*Objective Sentence:* Everyone can grow spiritually by making nine commitments the Scriptures detail [God's Word] in the life of a devoted follower of Jesus v [ 1. Where it all begins 2. Give Your Full Attention].

*Introduction: A. W. Tozer:* It is the nature of God to speak ... and the Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech ... and the infallible declaration of His mind.

*In order for you to grow spiritually you must...*

- #1. **Give Your Full Undivided Attention to God's Word** (*Proverbs 4:20-22* My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings [lean in and hear what God is saying]. <sup>21</sup> Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; <sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. <sup>23</sup> Keep [guard] your heart with all diligence [guard your heart by giving God's Word your full attention], for out of it spring the issues of life.)
  - A. **Thomas Cuthrie:** *The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons [the sword of the Spirit], a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth. It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every affliction, and a soothing ointment for every wound. Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun.)*
  1. **Study It** (*1 Timothy 2:15 NKJV AMP* Be diligent [study and do your best AMP] to present yourself approved to God, a worker [tested by trial] who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing [accurately handling] and skillfully teaching the word of truth.
    - a. **Tim LaHaye—[15 Minutes]** You can understand the Bible and in fact you can master almost anything by investing just 15 minutes a day if you do it long enough. If you

- will read the Bible for 15 minutes a day [82,125 minutes and 1,369 hours a year], and take another 15 minutes a day [82,125 minutes and 1,369 hours a year] for study and learning; by the end of three years you will have accomplished the following: Read the Bible completely through; Read the key books several times; Accumulated the major principles, promises and commands of the Bible; Learned several key verses; Developed a working knowledge of the Bible; Developed a lifetime habit of Bible study that will enrich your entire life.
- b. **Psalm 119:15-16, 165** I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word. Great peace have they who love your law and nothing shall offend them.
  - c. **Mike Bickle:** When our heart's desire is to obey God, His Word is sweet and satisfying. The Bible comes alive when the heart's intent is to follow Him 100 percent. That's when the Word becomes sweet. Deliberate resistance to God's Word makes it seem dull and dead to your heart, causing it to become tasteless and bland.
  - d. **Acts 17:11 NKJV + AMP** These people were more [noble and] open-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness [with great eagerness], and searched [and examined] the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.
  - e. **Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
  - f. **Luther** said he studied his Bible as he gathered apples. First he shook the whole tree, that the ripest might fall; then he shook each limb, and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch, and after each branch, every twig; and then he looked under every leaf. Search the Bible as a whole, shaking the whole tree. Read it rapidly, as you would any other book. Then shake every limb—study book after book. Then shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then shake each twig, by a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences. And you will be rewarded if you will look under each leaf, by searching the meaning of the words
2. **Believe It** (**Ephesians 6:17 NKJV** *Take [also] the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* **NLT** <sup>18</sup> *And pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*)
- a. **T. L. Osborn:** Faith in God's word is faith in God. If you want to build faith, feed on His word. Our attitude towards God's word settles everything. You will not have a faith problem if you learn what to look at.
  - b. **Mark 11:23-24** Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain [impossibility, fear, guilt, sin, pain, trouble, addiction], 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."<sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*." (**John 14:13-14** Connected to Glory) **Matthew 21:22** Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive

- c. *Pastor Dan:* The whole purpose for studying the Bible is to empower you to believe what God says—so that you can be what He said you can be; do what God said you can do and receive what God said you can receive.
  - d. **Matthew 4:4 AMP** Jesus said to the Tempter, “It is written *and* forever remains written, ‘Mankind shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.
  - e. *T. L. & Daisy Osborn:* If you can get people to believe My Word no demon, no sickness, and no disease shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.
  - f. *Arcturus Conrad:* This book out-lives, out-loves, out-fits, out-lasts, out-reaches, out-runs, and out-ranks all other books. This book is faith producing, it is hope awakening, it is death destroying, and all those who embrace it find peace and forgiveness of sin.
  - g. *T.L. Osborn; Healing the Sick:* There are just two platforms on which we can stand. One is belief; the other unbelief. Either the word of God is true, or it is not. God will either do what He has promised, or He will not. His promises are either reliable, or they are not.
3. **Do It** (*Matthew 7:21-24* Jesus said, “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.)
- a. *Finis J. Dake:* You cannot doubt God’s Word ... and still get the benefits you need from Him. God will not make a special pet out of you or anyone else. He demands faith from you concerning His Word before He obligates Himself to meet your needs and fulfill His promises to you.
  - b. **James 1:22 NKJV** Be doers of the Word and not hearers only; deceiving your own selves. **Amplified** But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God’s precepts], and not merely listeners [who hear the word but fail to internalize its meaning], deluding yourselves [by unsound reasoning contrary to the truth].
  - c. *Pastor Dan:* When we hide the Living Word of God in our hearts then the divine character of Christ is activated in our lives. The Bible does more than inform us—it transforms us. [**Hebrews 4:12** You are living, breathing, working word of God in your world. Everyday people are reading your life and determining whether God is real or not by what they see in you.]
  - d. **Psalms 1:1-6** [Blessed are those who practice doing God’s Word] Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel [think like the ungodly] of the ungodly; nor stands in the way of sinners [act like the ungodly]; nor sits in the seat of the scornful [does not talk like the ungodly]. But their delight is in the Law of the Lord and in His Law do they meditate day and night. They will be like a trees planted by the rivers of living water who bring forth their fruit in their season .... [**Psalm 119:165**]

- e. *Abraham Lincoln*: The Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man ... without it we would not know right from wrong. I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. I take all of this book—I can by reason, and the balance by faith; do that and you will live and die a better man.

***Closing and Invitation:*** When Nancy and I resigned our church in Mulberry and began seeking God’s direction for our lives the Lord gave me an assurance from His Word in [Joshua 1:9 and Psalm 6:1-8] that He was with us; and that He would lead to the place where we should go. **Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Some thought we were stupid for leaving Mulberry but the Bible declares, **“Psalm 3:1-8** LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. <sup>2</sup> Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God. But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. <sup>4</sup> I cried to the LORD with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. <sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. <sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people.” God speaks to our hearts and guides us with His word—**Matthew 14:27** Take courage [be of good cheer] It is I. Don’t be afraid.