

## *The Spiritual Discipline of Bible Study*

### *Psalm 119:17-24*

Spiritual disciplines help us learn the ways of \_\_\_\_\_. At the forefront of the list of spiritual disciplines is the discipline of devotion to the word of God, the \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 119 celebrates the word of God. Verses 17-24 provide a sample of the entire chapter.

The meaning of the text is clear: The word of the Lord is crucial for any kind of right, \_\_\_\_\_ living. \_\_\_\_\_ God's rules for living and \_\_\_\_\_ them is crucial. But the spiritual discipline of devotion to the word requires that we move from simply reading, understanding, and obeying the words of Scripture to letting the words produce \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

Bible reading for understanding and obedience, though of some value, does not itself produce godliness and isn't yet a spiritual discipline. It stops somewhere \_\_\_\_\_ of godliness. It may even produce the \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ to the word of God is not the same as godliness. The most important text in all the Bible for understanding the spiritual discipline of Bible reading is John 5:\_\_\_ - \_\_\_ where Jesus challenges the religious leaders about this. Jesus taught that Bible study that produces understanding, even that produces obedience, has not yet produced godliness.

The prophet Jonah is an example of someone who at first refused to obey God and preach in Nineveh. But God got his attention through a storm and a big fish. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_, preached, and the whole town repented. Then, Jonah got mad at God for \_\_\_\_\_ Nineveh. He still \_\_\_\_\_ the Ninevites. God used a leafy plant to teach Jonah what He was \_\_\_\_\_ about.

This is the real goal of studying the Bible. It is how we learn what God is \_\_\_\_\_. We grow in godliness only as we learn that and begin to make His concerns \_\_\_\_\_. Do you want to practice the spiritual discipline of Bible study? Learn what a passage says about what God is concerned about. Then pray for God to \_\_\_\_\_ His concern.