



HABIT 1

A CONSISTENT TIME IN GOD'S WORD

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

—James 1:25



I. WHY IS TIME IN GOD'S WORD SO IMPORTANT?

A. The Bible is a HOLY book.

... how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
—2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. The Bible makes us WISE for salvation.
2. The Bible is INSPIRED by God.
3. The Bible is USEFUL for daily living.
4. The Bible EQUIPS us for Christian service.

B. The Bible is a REWARDING book.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

—Psalm 19:7-11

II. WHAT KIND OF LISTENER ARE YOU?

A. Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower.

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

—Mark 4:3-8 NIV

B. Jesus interprets the Parable of the Sower.

In Mark 4:14-20, Jesus interprets the parable, describing four kinds of “listeners”.

1. Don't Be the INDIFFERENT Listener.

The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

—Mark 4:14-15

2. Don't Be the SHALLOW Listener.

Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

—Mark 4:16-17

3. Don't Be the CROWDED Listener.

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

—Mark 4:18-19

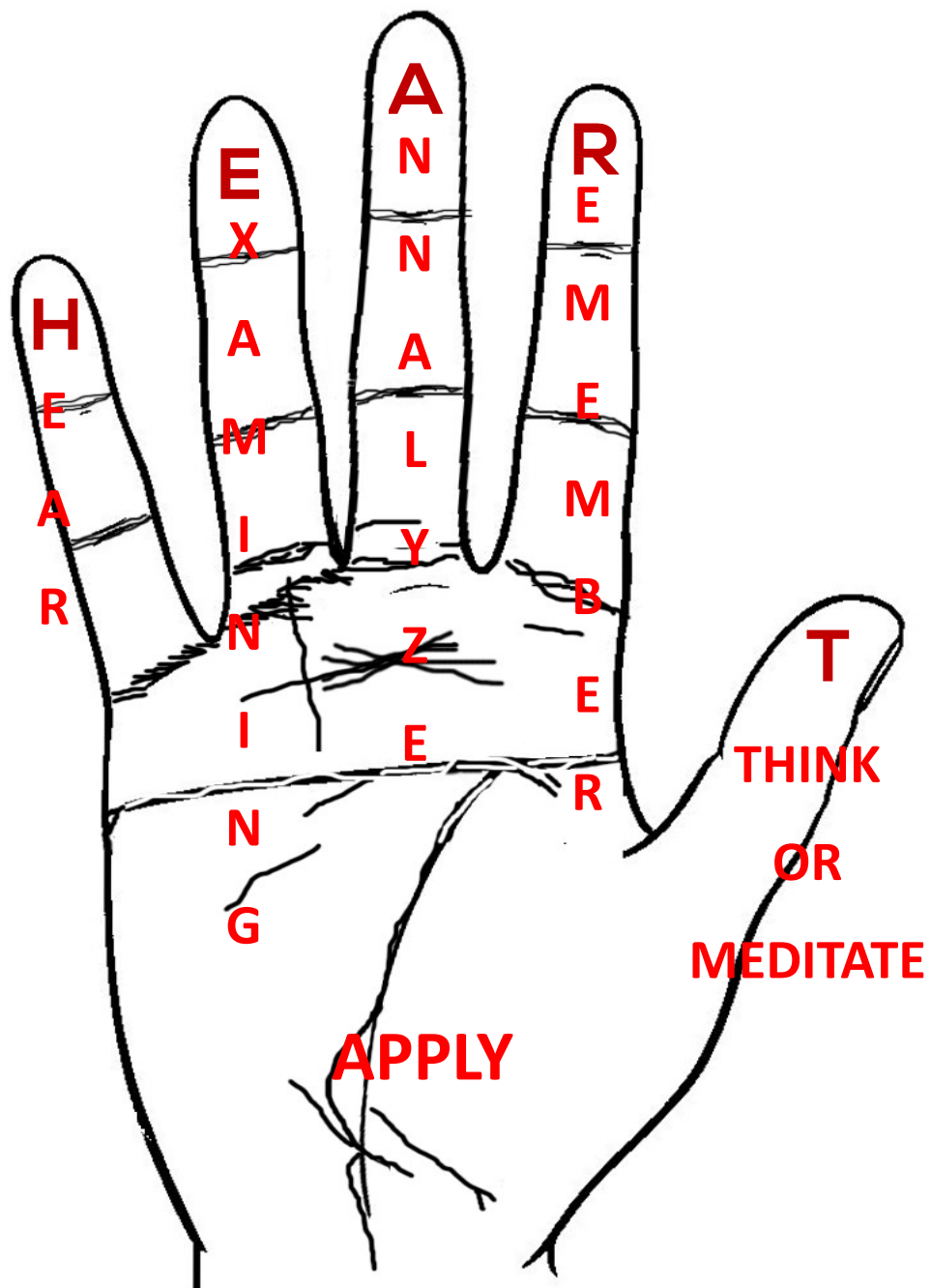
4. Be the ATTENTIVE Listener.

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

—Mark 4:20

- a. RECIEVE . . . hear the word
- b. RESPOND . . . accept the word
- c. REPRODUCE . . . produce a crop

III. HOW DO I GET GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART AND HAND?



When you come,
bring the cloak that I
left with Carpus at
Troas, and my scrolls,
especially the
parchments.

—2 Timothy 4:13

—The Apostle Paul at
the End of His Life

If Paul needed to
study his scrolls of
the Bible to the very
end of his life, how
much more should
we be committed to
a consistent time in
God's Word!

A. HEAR God's Word by Listening to It.

1. Ask God to clear your mind of distractions so He can speak to you.
2. Be eager to hear and learn.

B. EXAMINE God's Word by Reading It.

1. Try to find a consistent time and place.
2. Read sections, not just verses.
3. Read the Bible in different translations. Read it aloud.
4. Find a reading plan and stick with it.

C. ANALYZE God's Word by Studying It.

1. Mark special verses.
2. Journal your thoughts.
3. Use study Bibles and online tools.

D. REMEMBER God's Word by Memorizing It.

1. Memorize verses that stick out to you or help you.
2. Review, Review, Review!

E. THINK on God's Word by Meditating on It.

1. Read, re-read, and think about what you just read.
2. Ask questions like who, what, when, where, why and how.

F. APPLY God's Word by Obeying It.

1. Don't apply the truth to someone else.
2. Always ask, "How does this apply to me?"
3. Act on what you learn by putting it into practice.

VI. RESOURCES

- A. A Study Bible (NIV or ESV; Life Application Bible)
- B. Bible App (YouVersion)
- C. [Blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com)

