



SIMPSON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

40 Days in the Word

Bible Study Techniques:

Pronounce It: Read the entire verse several times, stopping at each word to write down your thoughts

Picture It: Picture the Biblical scene in your mind, see yourself as one or all of the participants in the passage

Probe It: Ask “What did it mean then?”; ask “what is the timeless truth?”; ask “How does it apply now?”

Paraphrase It: Read the passages over and over again, think about what God is saying to you, put it your own words

Personalize It. Pray It: Put your name in place of the pronouns or nouns used in Scripture. Rewrite the verse in the first person, as though God were saying it directly to you. Put the passage you are studying into the first person singular from you, turn it into a prayer and pray it back to God.

Pre-Read: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom **resist** steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Ephesians 4:27 — Neither give **place** to the devil.

GREEK WORDS

1. “vigilant” — **γρηγορέω** (*gregoreo*): to arouse from sleep; to be awake, as opposed to being sleepy and negligent; to be watchful, as opposed to careless and non-attentive; to give strict attention to; to be cautious; to be on high alert; to put up one’s guard against a sinister outside force or enemy

2. “place” — **τόπος** (*topos*): any portion or space marked off, as it were, from surrounding space; an inhabited place, as a city, village, or district
3. “resist” — **ἀνθίστημι** (*anthistemi*): to resist; to arrange oneself against; to strategically oppose; pictures an orderly and planned resistance

In First Peter 5:8, Peter describes the activity of the devil as he tries to get into our lives. At the time this verse was written, the apostle Peter was a very elderly man, and he was writing to impart very common-sense advice to the people of God about how to live. He said, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

When you see the word “devour” in this verse, you probably visualize a lion devouring the meat of an animal that he has already killed. But the Greek word for “devour” is from the root word *pino*, which really doesn’t mean *to devour*. It actually means *to drink*.

So, this verse is the picture of a lion hovering over the carcass of a dead beast, but the meat is already gone. All that’s left is the bones and the fluid of the animal, and the lion is hungrily slurping up those juices. Peter used this word to tell us what the devil wants to do to you and me. He wants to mess us up, maul us, victimize us, and take us down — not just to chew and devour us, but to so totally consume us that there’s nothing left but our “juices,” so he can *slurp up* what remains.

As we begin this next journey “40 Days of Spirituality”, we encourage you to stand strong, because Satan will attack you. However, this journey will give you a set of spiritual tools and weaponry that will help you to defeat the attacks of Satan.

Session One: Developing a Lifestyle of Forgiveness

The ultimate purpose of the Bible is not to inform us, it is to transform us. The real problem is usually not with interpreting difficult passages, it is applying the passages we do understand to our daily Christian walk. For each verse in Session One, PRONOUNCE IT, you are to do the following:

Read the entire verse several times, stopping at each word to write down your thoughts; ask the questions, “How does this verse apply to my life and what will I do about it?”

Day 1: Ephesians 4:31-32

Day 2: James 1:20

Day 3: Ephesians 4:26-27

Day 4: Matthew 5:23-24

Day 5: James 5:16

Day 6: Romans 12:18

Day 7: Matthew 5:43-45

BONUS: Matthew 18:21-22

Session Two: Help Me Holy Spirit

Sadly, most Christians live and die never know the fellowship and companionship of the Holy Spirit. They have heard about the Holy Spirit and may even know doctrinal answers regarding the Third Person of the Godhead. But knowing about the Holy Spirit and personally knowing him in a daily fellowship are two different things. For the next 7 days you will be studying and focusing on the work and the ministry of the holy spirit; hopefully you will begin to have a great appreciation for him!

Day 8: John 14:16-18,26

Day 9: Philippians 1:19-20

Day 10: 1 John 2:27

Day 11: Luke 4:1-14 (Spirit led and Spirit Fed)

Day 12: John 16:13,15

Day 13: Romans 8:26

Day 14: Ephesians 4:29-32