

Thrive – Read Scripture
 Ross Parsley – January 1, 2017

C.S. Lewis said: Aim at heaven and you'll get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you'll get neither.

Today, I want to challenge YOU to "**READ SCRIPTURE**" everyday!

John 1:1-5 (NIV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

The Bible has one unifying and overarching story pointing to **Jesus!**

- **John 1:14 (NIV)** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
- **John 6:63 (NKJV)** The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)** 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.
- **Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1. Faith activates the words of God.

Hebrews 4:2 (NIV) For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

2. Revelation activates our faith.

Luke 1:26-34 (NIV) In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

"Word" is "rhema" and means the "**revealed word of God.**"

3. Meditation activates revelation.

Joshua 1:7-8 (NIV) Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

"Meditate" means "to **ruminate.**"

Matthew 7:24-27 (MSG) ²⁴⁻²⁵ "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. ²⁶⁻²⁷ "But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

- **The "Read Scripture" App for iPhone or Android**
- **"The Bible Project" Reading Plan**
- **21 Days of Prayer starts next Sunday, January 8th – 28th!**