



Reading Well: Read Devotionally

Acts 4:13 • March 31, 2024

Consider 5 ways Christians can approach life in Christ (Skye Jethani, With):

1. Life F_____ God.
2. Life O_____ God.
3. Life U_____ God.
4. Life F_____ God.
5. Life W_____ God.

THE PROBLEM WITH “FOR”:

- “For” is about changing C_____.
- “For” doesn’t address the H_____ of the problem.
- “For” requires actions or things, but not P_____.
- “For” may never reveal who G_____ is.
- “For” isn’t the way G_____ relates to us.

BEING “WITH”

For those seeking Jesus, the answer is “Come and S_____” (John 1:38-39, 45-46; 12:21). Jesus’ true family are not those “standing outside” but those S_____ inside the house around him (Mark 1:31-35). The religious leaders were amazing at Peter & John, then they realized the source of their amazement: these men had been W_____ Jesus (Acts 4:13).

List places in Scripture where God promises to be “with” his people:

Life with God is all-inclusive: includes blessings, assurances, and service, but it is all about a R_____ with God.

BIBLE READING AS BEING “WITH”

How can Bible Reading be a vehicle to be “with” God? Read P_____, E_____, & A_____.

Answers: From; Over; Under; For; With; Circumstances; Heart; Presence; God; God; See; Seated; With; Relationship; Prayerfully; Expectantly; Actively



“Go with the Wise Men to Bethlehem and adore the little king. Help his parents carry the child and present him in the Temple. Alongside the apostles, accompany the Good Shepherd as he performs his miracles. With his blessed mother and St. John, be there at his death, to have compassion on him and to grieve with him. Touch his body with a kind of devout curiosity, handling one by one the wounds of your Savior who has died for you. With Mary Magdalene seek the risen Christ until you are found worthy to find him. Look with wonder at his ascent into heaven as though you were standing among his disciples on the Mount of Olives.”

-- Ludolf of Saxony, *The Life of Christ* (1502)

“This is what God designs and desires in giving us the Bible to read. He would that we catch the spirit, rather than learn the doctrine, of this Holy Book.

There is a critical reading of the Bible...But a devotional and sanctifying reading of that sacred Book is different.

The man of God reads the Book of God to commune with God, ‘*to feel after him and find him,*’ to feel his power and his divinity stirring within him; to have his soul fired, quickened, animated by the spirit of grace and truth. He reads the Bible to enjoy the God of the Bible; that the majesty, purity, excellency, and glory of its Author may overshadow him, inspire him, transform him, and new-create him in the image of God. The words of Jesus to such a one are spirit and life; they are light and joy; they are truth and peace. Such a one converses with God. His readings are heavenly musings. God speaks: he listens.”

“There is a peculiarity attendant on this reading which I beg you leave to remark with emphasis. The Author of the Bible is always present with his Book... This Author for ever lives, and is for ever present.”

– Alexander Campbell, “Bible Reading,” *The Millennial Harbinger* (Jan 1839)