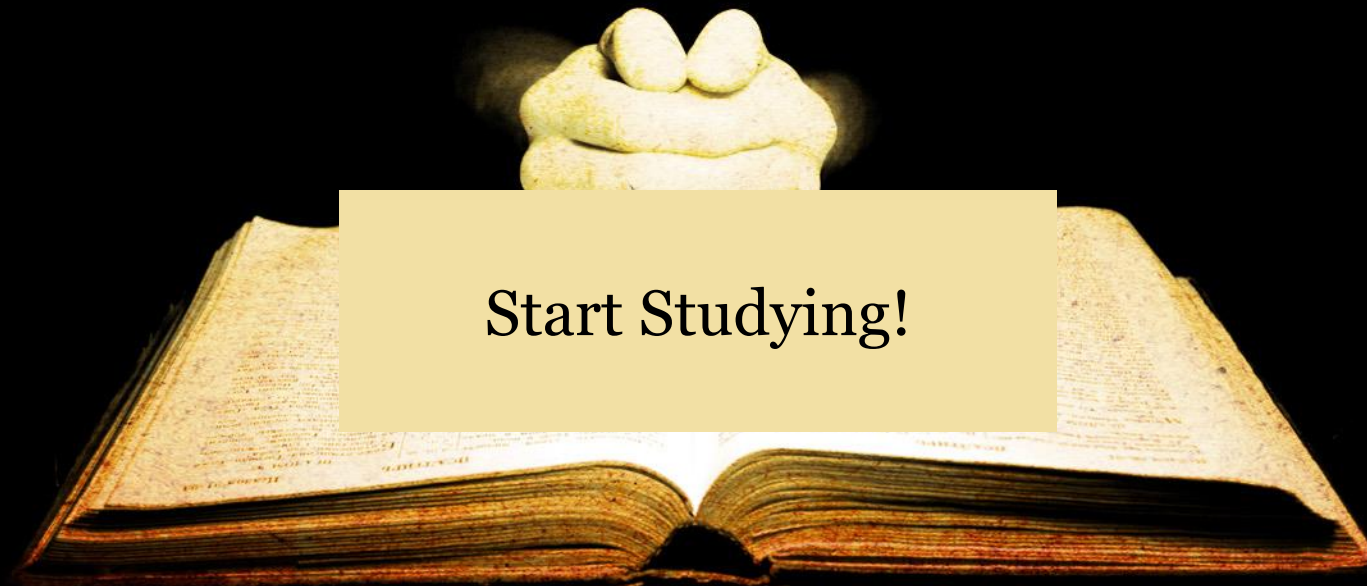


Communicating with God (40)

A study of prayer and Bible study



Start Studying!



Studying the Bible

- In addressing Bible study, we have noted several things:
 - 1) Why should we study the Bible?
 - 2) The Bible is God's word – inspired and accurate
 - 3) A study of authority – how do we determine the intent of what God tells us to do?
 - 4) What Bible study is and how it is related to Bible reading



Studying the Bible

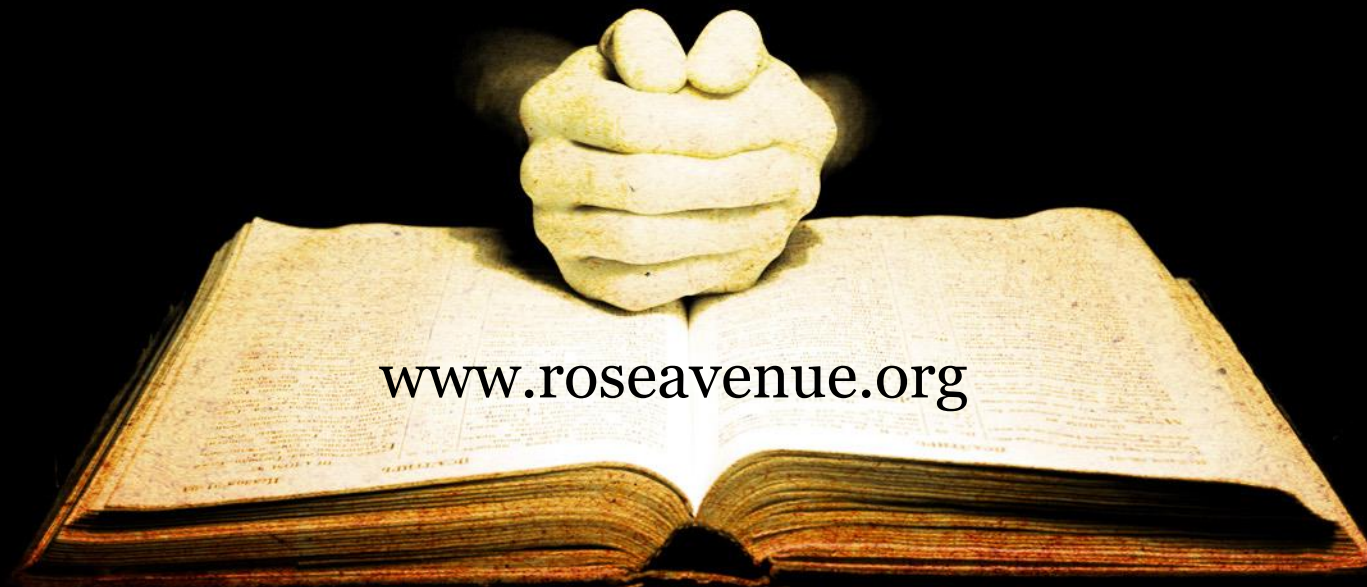
- This was followed by a study of some rules to consider as we study the Bible:
 - 1) Determine to get out of the text God's intended meaning.
 - 2) A passage of scripture has one meaning*
 - 3) We need to use reasoning and logic as we study
 - 4) The Bible does NOT contradict itself
 - 5) The importance of context
 - 6) Examine the background of a text (& context)



Studying the Bible

- This was followed by a study of some rules to consider as we study the Bible:
 - 7) The Bible is filled with principles that apply to us
 - 8) Consider the type of literature in a text
Especially the difference between literal & figurative language
 - 9) Know the major divisions of the Bible
 - 10) When the author explains something, that must be included in the interpretation
 - 11) Put together everything about a particular subject

Bible study (13)
Start Studying the Bible
(Suggestions to help you)



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Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme





Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are at least 4 types of studies
 - **Contextual** - verse by verse, either a book or text.
 - **Topical** - a desire to fully understand a subject
 - It can be a **broad topic** - salvation, the church, the Holy Spirit, parables of Jesus, etc.
 - Something narrower** - baptism, eternal security, heaven, armor of God (**Eph. 6:10-18**), the “fruit of the Spirit” (**Gal. 5:22-23**) or “works of the flesh” (**Gal. 5:19-21**)



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are at least 4 types of studies

- **Topical**

You may have a specific purpose in mind - apologetics, What is my function in our family? How should I treat my brethren? What is the family of God? How do I overcome worry? An attitude adjustment - anger, gossip, forgiveness, etc.

A character study - Moses, Paul, Jesus, Ruth, etc.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are at least 4 types of studies
 - **Workbook** - based on textual or topical.
- A prepared guide that leads you through your study.

NOTE: Workbooks are the product of men!

Use caution. Ask someone, especially if you are young in the faith.

OUR Bible class is an example of a workbook.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are at least 4 types of studies
- **Worship services** - involves teaching God's word. Whether expository (examining a text), or topical - God's word on a given theme is being presented.

OUR goal is to be true to God's word in what we teach.

Be reminded: Singing is teaching - **Colossians 3:16**,
Ephesians 5:19 - study the message of songs

Sermons are focusing on God's word -
2 Timothy 4:2-3



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are strengths and “weaknesses” with each type of study.
- **Verse by verse** - you are learning everything about the text. As you engage in this, you will in essence be creating your own commentary.
A good **verse by verse** study will answer the questions about the text and include other related texts.
Concern - this is time consuming and at times can be slow in progression. It may also limit you to a specific section of scripture. In time you may forget what you studied before. But in time, you will have a broader knowledge of the Bible.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are strengths and “weaknesses” with each type of study.
- **Topical studies** - you are learning everything about a given topic.
It causes you to use the entire Bible, thus you become familiar with all of scripture. With practice you become more familiar with YOUR Bible - where texts are, as well as various books.
It also typically leads to other topical studies (related).
Weakness - you are limiting yourself to that topic (for now). How much time will you spend on that topic? It can neglect getting “the big picture” of the Bible.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are strengths and “weaknesses” with each type of study.
- **Workbooks** - Give you direction and are a tremendous help, whether studying a book (like Luke) or a topic. This is especially good for one starting.
Weakness - you are limiting yourself to what the author is presenting, unless you use it as a starting place. Also, KNOW who is the author of that resource.
NOTE: Consulting several workbooks (and other resources) can be helpful in gaining a more complete picture of the subject.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- There are strengths and “weaknesses” with each type of study.
- **Worship** - you are with other saints. As noted, various acts of worship are designed to teach and build you up. The weakness, your “study” is limited to what the worship leaders present. And time limits restrict that even more. It will also be his studies that are presented. Remember **Acts 17:11, 1 John 4:1**.
- This should NOT be your ONLY source of learning.



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- **Bible classes** - when we come together to study, there are benefits. The types we have discussed are often incorporated into our Bible classes.
- We usually have something structured to lead us in our study. It is a good time to interact with one another and ask questions about a given subject (text or topic). Learning from each other is a most valuable tool.
cf. 2 Timothy 2:2, Proverbs 11:30 - *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.*



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- **Bible classes** - It is limited in its timeframe, as well as the selected subjects to be studied.
- If you “study” in advance and prepare you will benefit more from the class when there.
- IF you do not understand something, please ask!
- There is the potential to be “led astray” from the topic at hand - depending on those present.

NOTE: This should NOT be your only source of study!



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- Regardless of what you are studying, you are increasing in knowledge - **2 Peter 3:18**
- Determine the type of study you want to do.
For those young in the faith - begin with a book - possibly a gospel (**Luke**), followed by **Acts**. This will lay the groundwork for your faith and the rest of the New Testament.
- If needed, ask for recommendations. IF you want to use a workbook, ask someone before you start.
- **Don't plow too deep at first. That will come in time. Cf. Hebrews 5:14**



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- Let it be your goal that you will consistently and regularly study, so that in time, you will have a working knowledge of the entire Bible.
- THEN, the next time you engage in that study, you will “plow deeper”.
- Your goal is to be able to distinguish between truth and error - **Ephesians 4:11-16, Matthew 7:15-16; Also 1 Peter 3:15**



Start studying!

What are you going to study?

- Finally, on this point, let it be your ultimate goal to not only learn God's word, but to apply it to your life.

Cf. Ezra 7:10, James 1:21-26



Start studying!

Start studying

- As with prayer and Bible reading, set aside time to study God's word. It should be done regularly (weekly).
- Remove distractions as much as possible.
- Gather your Bible, other resources (next week), and something to record your study (paper & pencil, computer).

Recall that Jesus “found time” to pray - **Mark 1:35**.
He also found time to teach His disciples.



Start studying!

“Contextual study”

- Begin with prayer - **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, James 1:5, Matthew 7:7-8**
- Write the title of your study (and date). Also write down your goals. USE A PENCIL!
- Begin by reading the text, and the book - 2-3 times or more. Take your time doing this. The more familiar you are with a text the better prepared you will be to study it.
- Consider listening as you read. Find a recording of the version you are using.



Start studying!

“Contextual study”

- After reading, think about the text for awhile -
cf. Philippians 4:8
- Find out what background you can about the text. Ask your questions: Who, what, where, when...
- If needed, find a short overview of the book you are studying.
- Below your title, summarize your text in a sentence or two. **USE A PENCIL!** (“You’ll thank me later”)
- Start studying.



Start studying!

“Contextual study”

- If you highlight your Bible, underline key verses. PENCIL!
- Consider a “wide-margin” Bible if you wish to place some notes in your text.
- Consider following a **P.A.T.H.** With each chapter, ask:
 - P**raise - is there anything that praises God?
 - A**dmonition - what is the text telling me? What do I need to improve?
 - T**rust - what does the text do to build up trust (faith)?
 - H**ope - what in this text gives me hope and encourages me to keep going?

A person is shown from the chest up, holding an open book and reading. The background is dark and out of focus.

Start studying!

“Contextual study”

- Be patient - Genuine study takes time. There is enough in the Bible to keep you going for a lifetime.
- **1 Timothy 4:13, 15;**
Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1-2 -
You will start as a “babe” (**1 Peter 2:1-2**), but your goal is to “mature” in the faith (**Ephesians 4:14-15, cf. 2 Peter 2:1-3**).



Start studying!

Topical study

- Determine what topic you want to study.
Beginners - Salvation (grace, faith & works, OR the steps of salvation); What does it mean to be a Christian?
NOTE: Your subject may have subcategories.
- Consider a workbook by a faithful Christian (Need suggestions? Ask!)
- Secure a notebook and give your subject a title (and date)



Start studying!

Topical study

- Begin with prayer - **cf. Psalm 25:4**, *Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths*. Found 5x in psalms (**inc. Psalm 119:26 & 33**).
- Find (all) passages related to the topic at hand. Include subcategories as you look at passages.
- NOTE the context of each passage!
- Be prepared to look up words, both in English and in original languages. Topical studies ALWAYS involve proper definitions.



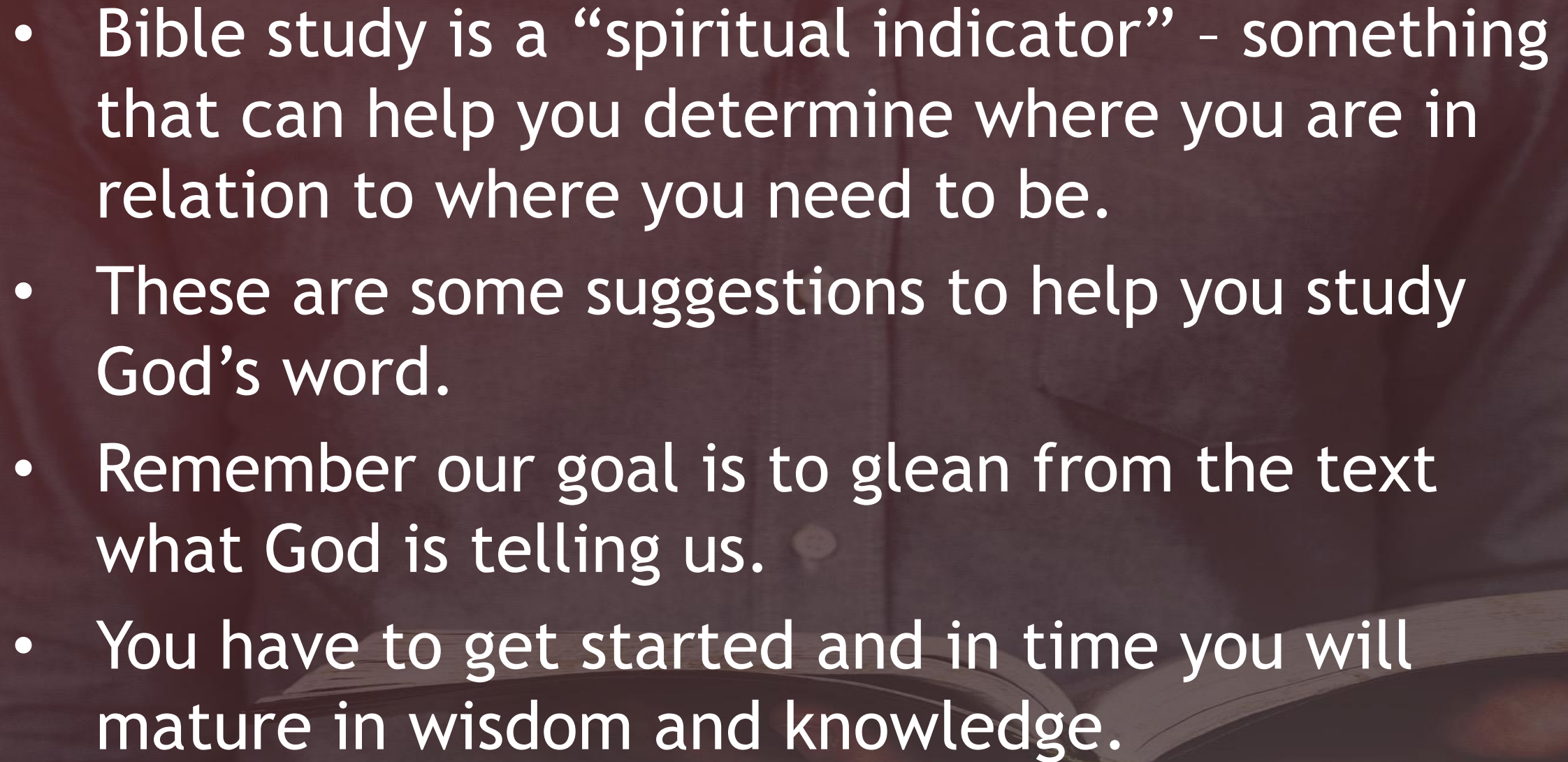
Start studying!

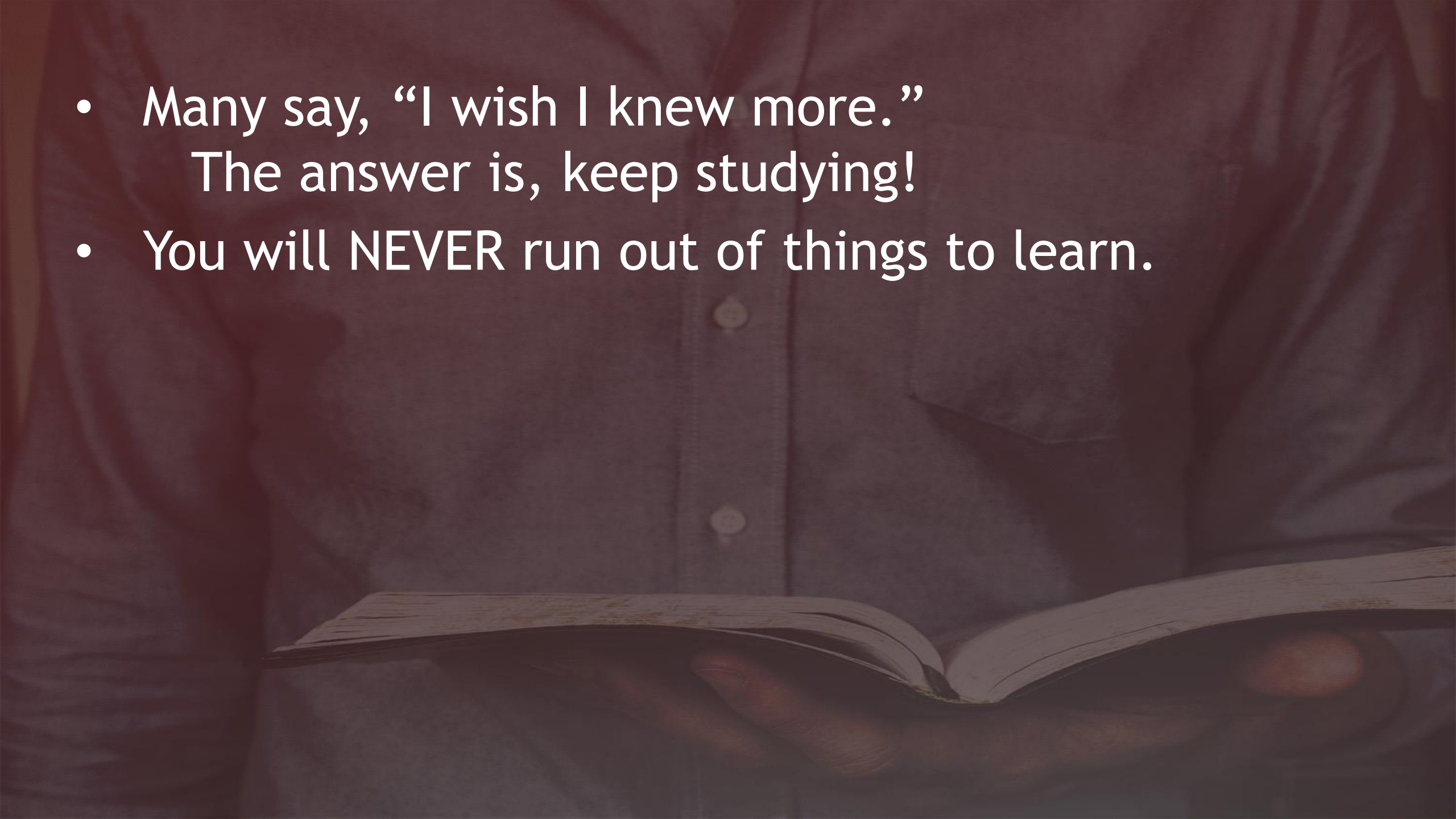
Topical study

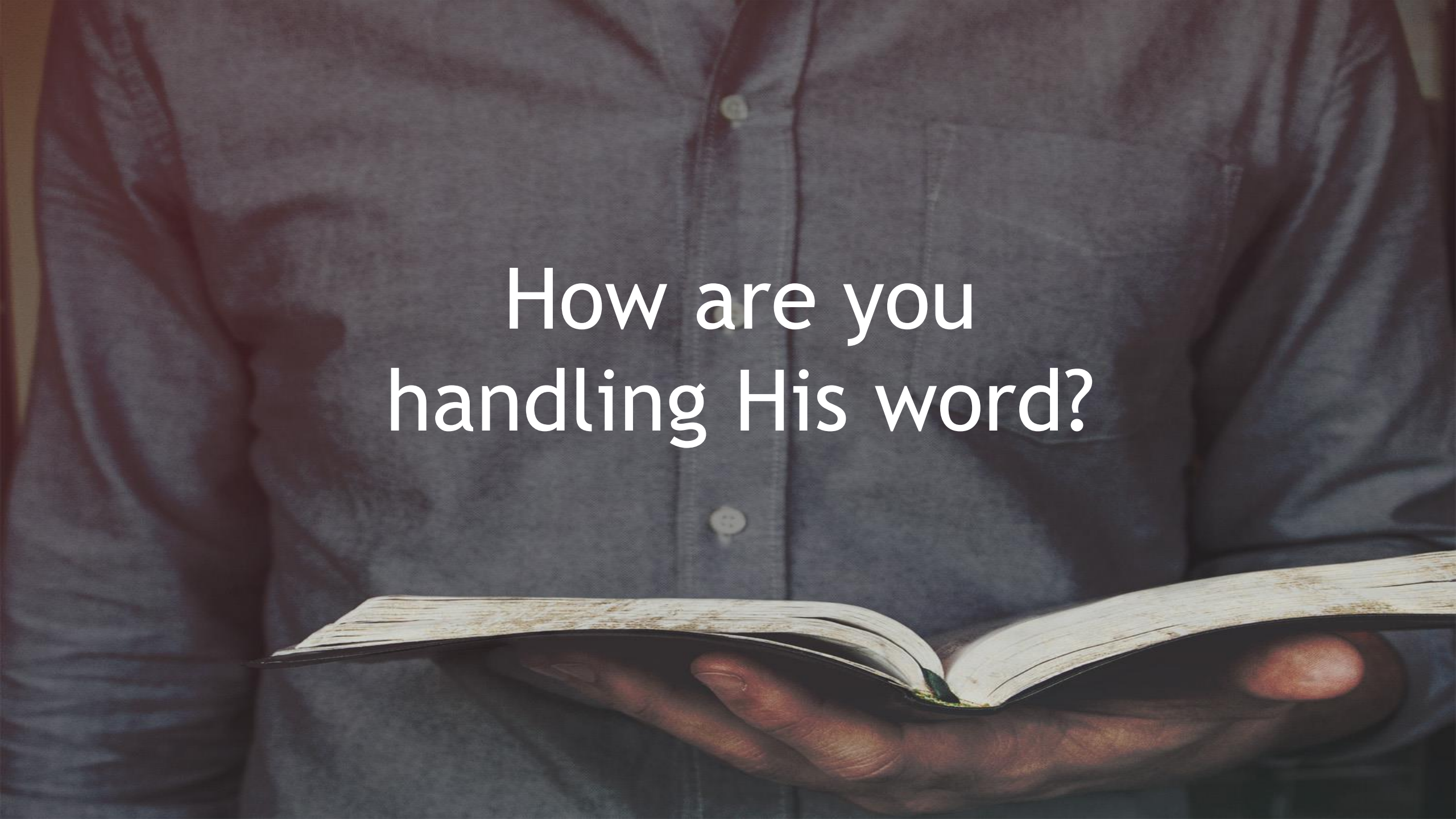
- Use various resources to help you (Next week).
- Write down what you have learned and file it so that you can access it later.

Topical studies can be helpful with contextual studies.

- Be patient! It applies here as well. **Galatians 6:9**

- 
- Bible study is a “spiritual indicator” - something that can help you determine where you are in relation to where you need to be.
 - These are some suggestions to help you study God’s word.
 - Remember our goal is to glean from the text what God is telling us.
 - You have to get started and in time you will mature in wisdom and knowledge.

- 
- A person wearing a blue button-down shirt is holding an open book. The image is dimly lit, with the person's face obscured by shadows. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.
- Many say, “I wish I knew more.”
The answer is, keep studying!
 - You will NEVER run out of things to learn.

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book with both hands. The book is held horizontally, and the pages are visible. The lighting is soft, and the background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the book.

How are you
handling His word?

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. The text "Let us pray!" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Let us pray!

