

\* The most important discipline for the Christian is the taking in of the Scripture, the Word of truth, because in it God has revealed everything a believer needs to know

\* The eternally essential and significant truths are not accessible to us anywhere else

\* The Bible itself refers to a number of ways in which a child of God can partake of God's Word

### 1. HEARING God's Word

# 191 ἀκουστός, ἀκούω akouo

= to hear, to attend to, to consider what is being or has been said

- it is the easiest of the Bible-intake disciplines

- the point is to hear it and then to KEEP it

- it is important to regularly hear the Word

(Lk 11:28; Ro 10:17; 1 Tim 4:13)

- ways to discipline oneself to hear the Word:

- hearing it preached at church
- various forms of electronic recording
- on the internet, TV or radio
  - consider reading the Scripture to others (in public worship, to the blind, to the elderly etc.)
  - learn how to read aloud effectively
  - check out how-to clips and tips online

### 2. READING God's Word

# 314 ἀναγινώσκω anaginosko

= to know accurately

= to read, to know by reading

- statistically only a small percentage of Christians read the Bible regularly

- almost one in four claiming to be "born again" never read the Word of God at all

- Jesus assumed that those claiming to be the people of God would have read the Word of God

- the phrase "have you not read?" implies a familiarity with the entire Word of God

- God promises a blessing to those who keep on reading and hearing His Word, but that blessing will only be received by those who then actually discipline themselves to keep it

(Mt 19:4; Mk 12:10; Rev 1:3)

- for consistently successful Bible reading:

- find the time and read at the same time every day
- find a Bible-reading plan
- choose at least one word, verse or passage to meditate on every day

### 3. MEMORIZING God's Word

# 6845 צָפַן tsaphan

= to hide, to treasure, to store up

# 8551 תָּמַךְ tamak

= to grasp, to hold fast, to retain

# 7760 שָׂם suwm

= to put, to place, to set

(Ps 119:11; Ps 37:31; Prov 4:4; Deut 11:18)

- consider memorizing passages, not just verses because "God has invited us to a feast. Let's not stop at the hors d'oeuvres"

– Jean Williams, The Briefing, 2012

### 4. MEDITATING on God's Word

# 7881 שִׁיחָה siychah

= reflection, musing, study

= giving considerable thought about with a focus to respond properly to the topic

= to go over a matter in one's mind

# 1897 הָגָה hagah

= to utter, to mutter, to speak

= to ponder, to give serious thought and consideration to, to speak in low tones reviewing the material

- the person who meditates on the Word of God and who then abides by it and does it, is promised success and blessing in all he does

(Ps 119:97; Josh 1:8; Ps 1:1-3; James 1:25)