







? What must I do **?**
TO GAIN THIS FREEDOM?

God's Word must have a prominent place in your daily life – influencing what you think about and how you live.

Just like God told Joshua.

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; **you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it.** For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

Joshua 1:8 (CSB)

"MEDITATE" – According to God

Using your mind to think about God and his ways – to fill your mind with God's instructions and to learn how to apply them.

It's quite the opposite of the world's counterfeit "meditation," which wants you to empty your mind!

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to **meditate** on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

Joshua 1:8 (CSB)

MEDITATE ... **Think about it (and relate it to your values and actions)**

... on God's instructions.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
Psalm 119:15 (ESV)

Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.
Psalm 119:97 (NIV)

... on God's actions.

As I meditate on all your works, I will consider your awesome deeds.
Psalm 77:12 (ISV)

The New Testament doesn't use the word "meditate." But it does have the same focus (with different words).

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.**

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice.** And the God of peace will be with you.

Philip. 4:8-9 (NIV)

"ME" = PAUL. THESE THINGS ARE NOW RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE.



SOME WILL VIEW THIS AS "DOING RELIGION."

SOME WILL THINK IT'S "TOO RADICAL" TO FOCUS ON GOD AND HIS WORD ALL WEEK LONG.

★ **BUT JESUS GAVE US NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE.** ★

If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.

Luke 9:23 (CSB)

GOD AND THE BIBLE ALL WEEK?

I DID IT ON SUNDAY. ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH?



DO YOU SAY IT'S JUST "DOING RELIGION," AND IT'S "TOO RADICAL" TO DO?

WE'RE SORRY YOU VIEW IT THAT WAY, because:

- ✓ You don't seem to realize that "obeying God" is NOT the same as "religion." (Example: 1 Samuel 15:22.)
- ✓ It means you're following the ways of the world and of your sinful nature.
- ✓ You cannot have victory over sin without following Jesus!
- ✓ You won't even be able to comprehend the sinfulness of your sin, without it being exposed by God's Word. You will be blind to the depths of your slavery to sin.



WHEN IT'S VIEWED AS MERELY "A RADICAL EXPRESSION OF RELIGION" ...

- ✓ Doing it may seem like a major burden... like it was for some in Israel.

And you say, 'What a **burden!**' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 1:13a (NIV)

- ✓ You will never be able to comprehend the freedom from sin that the "burden" of following Jesus brings.

"For my yoke is easy and my **burden** is light."

Matthew 11:30 (CSB)



WHEN YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF AND COME TO JESUS, GOD EMBEDS IN YOU THE DESIRE TO OBEY ...

"I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

Hebrews 10:16b (NIV)

- ✓ When it's the desire of your heart, following Jesus isn't a burden!

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest**. Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Matthew 11:28-29 (CSB)



WHEN THE DESIRE TO OBEY IS EMBEDDED IN US ...

- ✓ Following Jesus is characterized by delight and freedom!

I will walk about in **freedom**, for I have sought out your precepts.

... I **delight** in your commands because I love them.

Psalms 119:45, 47 (NIV)

- ✓ We will want to "hide" God's Word in their hearts.

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:11 (NLT)

THIS WEEK:

"BOIL IT DOWN"



(It all boils down to what's in your heart.)

"How much do you care about dealing with sin?"

IF ⇨ **"FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE DESIRE OF MY HEART."**

THEN { **"I WILL CARE ENOUGH**
to be willing to pay attention to what the Bible says!"

IF ⇨ **"IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG BURDEN TO ME."**

THEN { **"I WON'T CARE ENOUGH**
to do anything about this matter."

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" – Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ESV" – Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpcb.org)
- Scriptures marked "LEB" – Scripture quotations marked (LEB) are from the Lesham English Bible. Copyright 2012 Logos Bible Software. Lesham is a registered trademark of Logos Bible Software. (<http://www.leshamenglishbible.com> and <http://www.logos.com>)
- Scriptures marked "CSB" – Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.
- Scriptures marked "ISV" – Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version®, Copyright © 1996-forever by The ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission. (<https://www.isv.org/bible/>)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Skull and crossbones – Pearson Scott Foresman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skull_and_crossbones_vector.svg

Credits (2)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Shackles – Tropenmuseum, part of the National Museum of World Cultures, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE_TROPENMUSEUM_Uzeren_voetling_voor_gevangenen_TMnr_3912-475.jpg
- Mountain scene – I. Jonathan Zander, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mountains_in_Zion_National_Park_Utah.jpg
- Valley scene – Shaun Dunphy from Lindfield, United Kingdom, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Valley_at_Saughmossavere_\(5211811494\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Valley_at_Saughmossavere_(5211811494).jpg)
- Open Bible – Ken Horn, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Open_bible_is_ahah.jpg
- People jumping (made blurry; used in many pictures); also the ground below them – Bureau of Land Management, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BLMcareers_\(2119559723\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BLMcareers_(2119559723).jpg)
- 10 Commandments – Chris Light, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moses_PA140758.jpg
- Billboards (advertising) – Patrice78500, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bukid_Bintara.JPG
- Person at computer – Free Clip Art, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cartoon_Man_Surfs_The_Internet_Tv_Research.svg
- Sports arena – BrokenSphere, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Call_tootball_spring_practice_2010-04-17_11.JPG

Credits (3)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Refrigerator – Milad Mosapoor, Attribution, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:LQ_refrigerator_interior.jpg
- Boiling water on stove – Stove: P.wormer, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kettle.png>; Boiling water: GRAN, CC BY 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boiling_water.jpg
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2018.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.