

# The Discipleship Wheel Illustration

## Chapter Five The Word Hand

Last Revised: 2/6/2012

### Scripture Memory

Joshua 1:8

*This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*

### In addition

Learn the Word Hand using your fingers  
(You do not need to memorize the verses)

### Review

- Draw the Discipleship Wheel Illustration
- II Corinthians 5:17
- Galatians 2:20
- II Timothy 3:16

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face,  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Elizabeth C. Clephane

# The Word Hand

## I. The Wheel Review

**A.W. Tozer:** “One marked difference between the faith of our fathers as conceived by the fathers and the same faith as understood and lived by their children is that the fathers were concerned with the root of the matter, while their present-day descendants seem concerned only with the fruit... We demand the fruit immediately, even though the root may be weak and knobby or missing altogether. Impatient Christians today explain away the simple beliefs of saints of other days and smile off their serious minded approach to God and the sacred things.” (A. W. Tozer, The Best of A. W. Tozer, Baker, 1978, page 117.)

### A. Reason for the Wheel: Experiencing the Power of Christ in Our Daily Lives

1. Remember in Chapter One the frustration of being exhorted to do intangible things such as die to self, crucify the flesh, walk in the spirit, and abide in Christ.

Can you remember how you related to my testimony of being asked to do something without being told how? Then we discussed the Wheel as a diagnostic tool. You, in fact, drew your own “wheel” as it reflected your week-to-week Christian experience. Turn to Chapter One, page 5 and a look at the Word Spoke. Would you say your Word Spoke is a proper power source for your Christian life or does it need some work?

In this chapter we will go to work on your Word Spoke. This chapter will give you practical disciplines which will develop this spoke in your life and, as a result, develop you as a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

2. How do the following two verses link discipleship and the Word of God?

Isaiah 50:4: *The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.*

John 8:31: *Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.”*

Many Christians approach the Word Spoke of the Wheel from the aspect of being good recipients of the studies of others, without a feeling of personal Bible study preparation on their own part.

One of the basic fallacies of modern Christianity is that to **hear** the Word of God is to fulfill the requirements of not just the Word of God but also of discipleship as a whole.

3. Observe how Jesus addressed this issue of hearing the Word of God and discipleship in Matthew 7:24-27:

Matthew 7:24-27

*"Therefore everyone who hears **these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; **yet it did not fall**, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, **and it fell** with a great crash." When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

- a. What is the rock in this passage?
- b. If you answered "Jesus," then you are wrong. It is true that in other passages of Scripture Jesus refers to Himself as the "Rock." But in this passage the "rock" represents something else entirely. Look again at this passage.
- c. First, look at some of the constants in this passage:
  - (1) There are two men
  - (2) Each man built a house, which represents the Christian life (I Corinthians 3:9-16)
  - (3) Each man experienced the storms of life
- d. But where they built and the results were radically different. The necessity then is to separate the constants from the variables. To filter out the variables look at the diagram of the passage below.

**Everyone who hears**  
Puts them into practice  
Wise man who built house on rock

**Everyone who hears**  
Does not put them into practice  
Foolish man who built house on sand

e. Notice first the constants. What does each have in common (bold)?

f. Now notice the variables. How is each different (underlined)?

g. In the parable the difference between the wise man and the foolish man was sand versus rock. In the interpretation of the verse what do the underlined sections above represent, e.g. building on sand versus rock?

Foolish man built on sand =

Wise man built on rock =

h. In the application of the parable what is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man?

i. What then does the sand represent?

j. What then does the rock represent?





2. Our relationship with the Bible is that it *shall not depart out of our mouths*. What are some ways of applying this?

a. How would it be possible for us to do this if we were to seek to use the discipline of reading the Word?

b. How would the discipline of memorizing and reviewing the Word of God be a more realistic application?

c. Consider some stressful situations you may find yourself in throughout your week where you are idle (traffic jams, waiting in lines, waiting for appointments, etc.). In the space below list specific situations you might find yourself in over the course of a month.

d. How do you usually fill your time? List the situations and beside each record how you fill your time.

### DEPART

4185 *muwsh* (moosh); a primitive root [perhaps rather the same as 4184 through the idea of receding by contact]; to withdraw (both literally and figuratively, whether intransitive or transitive): KJV-- cease, depart, go back, remove, take away. (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.)

#### Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies:

To give way, to recede, to depart.

#### Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament:

This term appears 20 times in the OT. It is first used to describe the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire (the sign of the presence of God in the Israelite camp) which never left its place in front of the people day or night (Ex 13:22). Joshua did not depart from the tabernacle while Moses went into the camp (Ex 33:11.). Later the Lord instructed Joshua that the book of the law was never to "depart" from his mouth: he was to meditate on it day and night (Jos 1:8).

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SituationUse of Time

- e. How would your life be different, not only in the immediate response to the situation but also in your long term spiritual growth, if you memorized and reviewed the Word of God during these times?
- f. We are also exhorted to *meditate on it day and night*. Dawson Troutman, the founder of The Navigators, had a saying: “The first thought in the morning, the last thought at night.” By this he was referring to reviewing verses he had memorized. As he went through his morning routine of showering, shaving, and dressing, he would reflect upon the Word of God. As he fell to sleep at night, he would review his most recent verse in his mind. How would your approach to each day’s problems be different if you practiced this rule?
3. Many Christians are preoccupied with their personal and spiritual success. They want the “spiritual secret.” In this passage the key to success is given, but it is no secret. It is to obey what we memorize and meditate on throughout the day *that you might be careful to do according to all that is written in it*. It is important that we not jump the gun. “I memorize; I meditate; therefore, I must succeed.” There is a third link of the chain: “I must

obey.” It is very easy to approach the Word of God from a desire to understand its secrets or its deeper meaning rather than to obey the Word of God. As you listen to sermons, as you study the Bible, as you review the Word of God, is obedience or intellectual pursuit at the forefront? Although it is true that we cannot obey what we do not understand, it is equally true that God expects us to understand that we might obey.

4. God then assures us that ***then we will make our way prosperous and then we will have good success.*** As we reflect on this promise, what is our expectation? Is it a prosperous Bible study, a successful night of evangelism, a prosperous mission trip, a successful day of serving in our ministry or does it have to do with our own goals and aspirations? As you reflect on this passage, do you think God had in mind His glory or yours, His goals or yours, His kingdom or yours? How will this affect your expectations and desires as they pertain to the disciplines of the Word of God in your life?

- B. The Sword of the Spirit is the weapon of choice of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Having read this passage, reflect on the Hand Illustration included at the end of the study on page 12. Picture the Bible as the Sword of the Spirit. Can you imagine what it would be like to try to use the Sword with one or more of the fingers deformed or missing in The Hand Illustration? Below are listed the disciplines found in the Hand Illustration. Look up the passage and then write the key thought in the space below as it applies to this discipline.

1. **Hear:** Romans 10:17

**Walt Henrichsen:** “Help your man develop a regular hearing program. Suggest that he take notes in church as the pastor preaches. After the worship service he can compare notes with others, talk about what was said, and seek ways to apply it. His pastor will probably be so startled to see him taking notes in church that he will have a coronary right there in the pulpit, but I am sure that he will recover from it and be encouraged to know that someone is giving such rapt attention to the Scriptures.” (Walt Hen-

2. **Read:** Deuteronomy 17:18-20

**D. L. Moody**: “Always carry a Bible or Testament in your pocket, and do not be ashamed of people seeing you read it...Do not be afraid of marking it or making marginal notes. Mark texts that contain promises, exhortations, warnings to sinners and to Christians, gospel invitation to the unconverted, and so on. Always ask God to open the eyes of your understanding that you may see the truth, and expect that He will answer your prayer.” (W. L. Moody, son of, Dwight L. Moody, Barbour & Co., 1985, page 422.)

3. **Study:** Ezra 7:10, Acts 17:11

**Irving L. Jensen**: “No one method of study proposes to be the magic wand in the hard discipline of Bible study. The student of the Bible would do well to acquaint himself with and use many methods of study. Even in the use of one method the procedures should not be so ironclad that freedom of thought and expression is inhibited. All too easily one can be lead unconsciously into a rut, bound to a pattern. Such suppression can become a long, drawn-out situation as illustrated by the sign at a muddy road which read: ‘Choose your rut – you’ll be in it for the next forty miles.’ ” (Irving L. Jensen, Independent Bible Study, Moody Press, 1963, page 22.)

**R.C. Sproul**: “There is a great deal of difference between reading and studying. Reading is something we can do in a leisurely way, something that can be done strictly for entertainment in a casual, a cavalier manner. But study suggests labor, serious and diligent work. Here then is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” (R. C. Sproul, Knowing Scripture, IVP,

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#### 4. **Memorize:** Psalm 119: 9, 11

**D.L. Moody:** “Learn at least one verse of the Scripture each day. Verses committed to memory will be wonderfully useful in your daily life and walk. *Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.* Some Christians can quote Shakespeare and Longfellow better than the Bible...Strive to be exact in quoting Scripture.” (W. L. Moody, son of, Dwight L. Moody, Barbour & Co., 1985, page 422.)

**Roy Robertson:** “Once I asked Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, during a follow-up workshop, ‘How long do you wait before you start the new convert on a Scripture memory program?’ Dawson glared at me for a moment, then replied, ‘Do you mean how many minutes or how many seconds?’” (Roy Robertson, The Timothy Principle, NavPress, 1986, page 43.)

#### 5. **Meditate:** Joshua 1:8

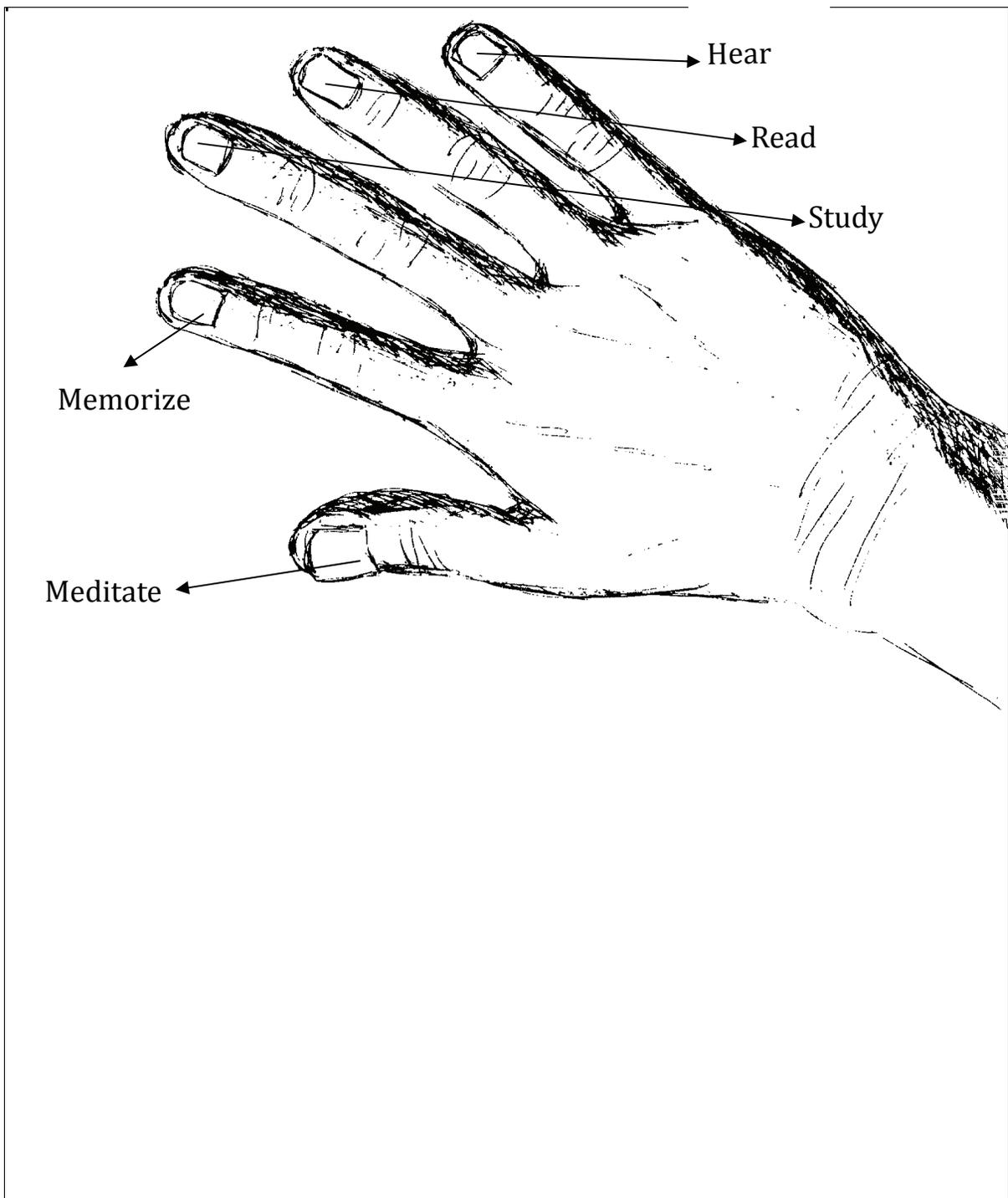
**Warren Myers:** “Several translations begin Psalm 1 with *Oh the joys.* Oh the multiplied pleasures, the contentment, and the wellbeing of the person who delights in God’s Word! He spends time reflecting on it. As a result, his life displays spiritual health and fruit, and everything he does is successful—his studies, his work, his relationships, and his Christian service. Psalm 1 does not command us to meditate; it merely describes the benefits. God’s Word in Joshua 1:8 is stronger: *You shall meditate on it day and night.* Again the Lord spells out the secret of success—always having the Word of God in our mouth, feeding on it day and night, sharing it with others, and obeying it. Ruminates is a synonym for meditate. A cow ruminates several times a day; after swallowing her food, she brings it back and chews the cud over and over. God wants us to ‘ruminates’ on His Word in order to fully know and obey Him. ‘Chew’ it prayerfully, taking time to reflect on its truths and their application.” (Warren Myers, Pray: How to Be Effective in Prayer, NavPress, 1983, page 79.)

Application One – As a diagnostic tool

Below is a perfectly formed hand reflecting balance and growth.

With each discipline as represented in the Hand Illustration, place the verse next to it.

**III. The Hand Illustration**



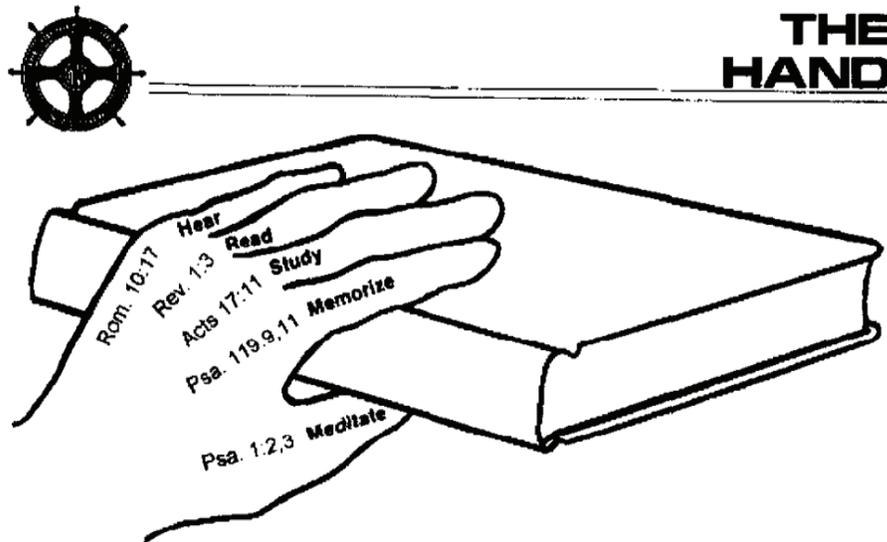
Application Two – Now draw your own “Hand” as it reflects reality

Consider your own “Hand.” Now draw a picture of an open hand as it reflects your daily commitment to these disciplines of the Word.

In your hand the size of each finger will reflect your obedience to God in this area on a daily basis. A normally-formed hand will mean complete obedience.

Now try to take up the “Sword of the Spirit” using the hand depicted in your illustration. Will you be victorious in combat with this hand? What does this tell you about some of the defeats and struggles you are experiencing in your daily walk with God?

#### **IV. Your Hand Illustration**



The “Word Hand” shows us the five methods of learning from the Bible. Each of these methods are important.

**Hearing:** Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides us insight into other’s study of the Bible as well as stimulating our own desire to know about the Bible.

**Reading:** Reading the Bible gives us an overall picture of God’s Word and plan for our lives. Many find it helpful to have a daily reading program that takes them systematically through the Bible. In most Bibles reading five pages a day is adequate to read the Bible through every year.

**Studying:** Studying the Bible leads us into personal discoveries of God’s truths. Writing down these discoveries helps us organize and remember better. Remember studying is not talking. We come to a Bible study to discuss what we have studied. If we have not first studied, then we are attending a Bible Talk not a Bible Study.

**Memorizing:** Memorizing helps us to internalize and hold on to God’s Word for use at any time. The Bible says that God’s Word is living and active and dwells in us with power. Memorized verses are a powerful way to unleash God’s Word in our lives. We all memorize that which is important. Now we know how important God’s Word is to us.

**Meditation:** Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand because it is used in conjunction with each of the other four methods. It is through meditation on God’s Word, thinking of its meaning and application in our lives that we will discover its transforming power at work in us.

## V. A Final Thought

“Many people who determine to read the Bible through in a year get bogged down and quit about half way through Leviticus. After the fascinating narrative in Genesis and the dramatic deliverance in Exodus, Leviticus seems to unfold with all the excitement of a technical manual for ancient clergymen. But do not let the priestly details fool you. This is a textbook for pilgrims, a life guide for people who have been delivered from their past and are on their way toward a glorious, God-planned future.

“Near the center of the book we find God's charge to His people. He told them they must not imitate the people of Egypt where they had been nor the practices of those in Canaan where they were going. In Leviticus 18:4 God said to them, *You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God.*

“Leviticus is also filled with word pictures of God's salvation, painted almost 1,500 years before Jesus was born. Every offering and sacrifice points to the cross of Christ, *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29).

“On your journey from Genesis to Revelation, do not let Leviticus stop you. Instead, let it be a wonderful bridge that takes you from sacrifices to the Savior.” (David C. McCasland, Our Daily Bread, Jan. 31, 2001.

We all know that in the explanation people give for not reading the Word of God they always say that they got started but the genealogies or the commands caused them to give up. This, of course, is not a valid excuse. Many of us have read boring text books from cover to cover or manuals for work that were not interesting yet essential for our job. How many of us have waded through a benefits manual or computer manual because we needed the information? How much more should our determination be to hear, read, study, memorize, and meditate upon the Word of God. If the Word of God is “boring” or “hard,” who does this reflect upon? Certainly it does not reflect upon God.

What endeavor in life worth mastering was easy the first time? What course of study needed no study? What discipline needed no discipline? Let's be consistent and truthful—our lack of depth in the Word of God is not a reflection upon the Word of God but rather our own sin.

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## Reading Program

Deuteronomy 17:19: *And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes.*

The daily reading of God's Word is an essential discipline for every disciple who would seek to lead others in the battle for the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women. Every word and every thought of the Bible is inspired, is living, and is of significant weight. We, as Christ's disciples, must be continuously exposing our hearts and minds to God's total Word, that the Holy Spirit might at any time bring a verse to mind. If we have not exposed our mind to it, if we are not familiar with it, we should not proudly presume upon the grace of God to work in our lives. For this reason, a yearly exposure to every chapter, passage, and word of the Bible is essential. God speaks not only in John and Psalms, but He also speaks in Leviticus, Hosea, Habakkuk, Haggai, Philemon, II John, and Jude. His Holy Spirit may want to speak to us, and we must make ourselves available.

In order to start you on the road to this, a reading program plan has been provided for you. If you have done some sections and not others, simply complete that which you lack. If you are just beginning, I suggest to you that you start at the beginning. If you have completed all of the projects, then you are free to devise your own reading program.

## Reading Program

Below you will find the four-step reading program for your personal growth as a disciple. If you have already begun this plan, then maintain it at a pace of three chapters per day. If you have not begun it, then let me challenge you to begin it and stick with it until you have completed it.

You may notice that you are required to follow and mark certain things in your Bible with highlighters. In case you have a special Bible which you do not wish to mark in, an inexpensive paperback version can be purchased. If you already have a theme that you have begun in a certain color, you may devise a creative alternative for the themes which I have requested of you. If you find that following so many themes is difficult, divide the themes in half and read the section twice.

The goal of every disciple should be to read the Bible through once each year. It is my hope that through the use of this tool you will grow in this conviction.

**A. The New Testament**                      Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament is the full revelation of God for His will for all Christians until His return. A thorough grasp is essential for all disciples. As you read the New Testament, freely underline or mark those passages which stand out or speak to you. Mark all verses dealing with obedience in green, heart for God in yellow, and heart for people in orange.

**B. The Psalms and Proverbs**                      Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

The Psalms teach us to pray. The Proverbs teach us how to live. Both are essential for success as Christ's disciples. As you read, follow the themes provided.

1. **Psalms**    Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the nature of the Psalm by highlighting its numerical indicator. By so doing you can easily find Psalms to aid you in your daily prayers. (Use a different color for each topic.)

- a. Adoration (praise and thanksgiving)
- b. Confession
- c. Supplication
- d. Intercession
- e. Wisdom/Historical teachings

2. **Proverbs**    Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the appropriate Proverb as you read. If the Proverb contains more than one theme, merely mark the phrase or word which identifies it as such. In doing so, the book of Proverbs can now be instantly read to minister to you in your prayers in these areas.

- a. Wise man
- b. Foolish man
- c. Pride and humility
- d. Teachability
- e. Tongue

**C. The Pentateuch** Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

The phrase "Pentateuch" indicates the first five books of the Bible as written by Moses. It contains the origins of man and Israel as well as the Law of God. Since Christ is the fulfillment of the Law and so much of the New Testament is written with reference to or in light of the Law, it is essential that the disciple have a full understanding of it. As you read the Pentateuch, highlight the following themes:

- a. Obedience
- b. Sacrifice and/or offering
- c. Soothing aroma
- d. Holy
- e. Blood
- f. The death penalty

**D. The Entire Bible** Begun \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Now go through and read those books of the Bible which you have not read before. Mark those passages which seem to stand out or speak to you as you are lead by God to do so.

**E. Going On**

You are now ready to begin a serious Reading Program for your development as Christ's disciple. See me for this.

	Present Amount of Time Given		Time I Could Give Over to God's Word	
	Day	Week	Day	Week
	T.V.			
Books				
Newspapers/ Magazines				
Radio				
Stereo				
Computer				

**Quiet Times Alone With God—Jeremiah 15:16—Chapter 5 Theme: The Word Hand**

**Passage for Meditation: Romans 10:17**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Deuteronomy 17:18-20**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Ezra 7:10**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Quiet Times Alone With God—Jeremiah 15:16—Chapter 5 Theme: The Word Hand**

**Passage for Meditation: Acts 17:11**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Psalms 119:9 & 11**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Joshua 1:8**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?