



# Rooted

GROW DEEP. LIVE STRONG.

## Rooted in the Word of God

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“Don’t only be a hearer of the God’s Word,  
also be a doer.”

*James 1:22*

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### 2. What does God want me to do?

James 1:22 tells us to be a doer of God’s Word. Applying God’s Word to our lives means that action will be necessary. Remember, changing the way we think is an action. Romans 12:2 tells us we should be transformed through what God teaches us in our time in His Word. John 14:15 helps us to understand that we prove our love for Jesus when we obey the Word. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: “Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny!”

Make it **PERSONAL**: Think of how God’s Word applies to your life. When you write, write in the first person. “This means \_\_\_\_\_ to me.” “I need to \_\_\_\_\_.” See God’s Word for how it applies to you before you find how it may apply to others.

Make it **PRACTICAL**: Go from what it means to specific ways that you will apply the truth to a situation, conversation, thought or action.

Make it **PROVABLE**: How will you be able to determine that you are being obedient to the Word of God? This will come through self-evaluation and accountability with others.

**Not everything applies equally.** Some passages in the Old Testament are not able to be equally applied to our lives because we live in the age of grace. However, we will find truth that is applicable to our lives. For example, the Israelites were told to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem 3 times a year for festivals. As Christians, this isn’t required, but we can apply the importance of meeting with God privately and corporately. **More verses apply than you think.** Have you ever read a verse in the Bible and thought, “Wow that sounds weird!” Many times we read a verse or passage and think that it either doesn’t apply to me, or we don’t know how to make sense of it. Study deeper to fully understand the passage. Sometimes we find that it is a difference in culture that prevents us, initially, from understanding. In those situations we need to understand the original culture in which the scripture was written. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul makes an application from Deuteronomy 25:4. The verse from Deuteronomy, on first read, seems to be an odd reference about an ox eating. Paul realized that the passage had a deeper meaning. It was validation that it was reasonable for him to receive compensation for his ministry from the people in Corinth. **Application does not happen accidentally.** We must be intentional in how we apply scripture. We have, at times in our lives, more experience with our sinful nature than our redeemed identity. Paul used the example of physical training and exercise to help us understand spiritual training.

## Strategies for Your Time in God's Word:

### **1. Think about your attitude going in...**

Are you alert? Are you expecting to hear from God in a powerful and personal way? Do you feel like you are in a teachable place emotionally and intellectually? Can you be still and quiet? Can you focus on God alone, or are a million other things racing through your mind?

### **2. Think about time and place...**

Choose a consistent time of day. Having a consistent time helps us be aware when we miss it. Think about how much time you are going to take to read and study. Make a plan. It isn't unspiritual to make a schedule and decide on an amount of time. Where is the best place for you to study? Consider, and identify, distractions and interruptions.

### **3. Have a basic plan that has room for change...**

A basic plan can include prayer, reading, studying, meditation, and journaling. Keep in mind that humans form habits. When habits rob our study time, dull our connection and excitement, don't be afraid to change it up. A wise author said, "Don't be devoted to the habit more than the Savior."

### **4. Get closer with Jesus...**

In John 5:39, Jesus said that all scripture bears witness of him. Don't just think of scripture as information. Jesus is the Word. Spending time in God's Word, by design, brings you closer to Jesus. Search for him where you are studying.

### **5. Have a take away...**

Don't leave your time in God's Word without identifying what your take away will be. This may be a specific verse or theme. A take away helps to ensure that we are finding specific application in God's Word. This is what you meditate on, at least until you are in the Word again.

### **6. Expect a spiritual battle...**

Sometimes the battle occurs when we are in our quiet time with God. It comes in distractions, or fatigue. Many times the battle happens before we get to this time. Our enemy's desire is to keep us from God's Word. Have you ever felt like you were in a dry period of life, and had no desire to be in the Word? These feelings come and go, but as it says in 1 Peter 1:25, God's Word endures forever. His Word will make it through every season of life. Remember, when sin is present in our life we often avoid God's Word. God's Word gives us the answers to temptation and sin. It is the last thing we should avoid. It should make sense that Satan would not want us to thrive in our time in the Bible. The easiest fight to win is the one for which you are prepared.

### **7. Don't give up...**

If you missed a meal would you give up on eating? No, of course not. Don't allow missing time in God's Word to keep you from it. Find accountability that will challenge you to be consistent, but will also allow you an opportunity to share what you have learned. If it is unclear, keep digging. God's Spirit is in you, if you are saved. 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us that we have everything we need to live a Godly life. Instructions for that life come from God's Word. Therefore, we should have the confidence that God will continue to illuminate truth from His Word in our minds.