

BUZZSAW BIBLE READING

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Why spend time reading the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1 Peter 2:2

Psalms 19:7-11

What are your favorite Scriptures about the Scriptures?

Why read faster?

- Reading an entire book at a swift pace will always highlight important themes
- Reading faster fosters a deeper understanding of God as you connect stories to one another
- Faster reading makes it more likely to read through the entire Bible
- Faster reading allows you to focus better as your mind does not wander
- It helps saturate our mind with the Scriptures
- Reading FASTER will help you remember MORE

Why do you read slowly?

From the beginning you learn to read by reading aloud. This is the only way a teacher can tell whether you are able to recognize the words and pronounce them. When you became more practiced at reading you were told not to read aloud anymore. "Read silently to yourself," they said.

This insistence on hearing each word as you read restricts you to a reading speed based on how fast you can hear words... not how fast you can see words. Since you can only hear one word at a time you can only read one word at a time. If you learned to read without hearing each wording your mind, only seeing it, you would read much faster. How fast? As fast as you can THINK.

*The saddest commentary ordinary readers is the familiar "I can't seem to concentrate when I read" or "I can't remember anything I just read." These all too common comments are caused directly by slow reading. **People who read rapidly generally have better concentration and comprehension because they're reading speed is keeping pace with their thinking speed!***

Once you learn to read by sight only, you will be able to read groups of words, whole ideas with each glance. It is remarkable that only in reading do you limit your eyes to a single symbol. You look at a painting or seeing entirely, not left to right, not section at a time.

from evelyn wood.com.au

How to read faster and understand more

- Preview by looking at segment headings
- Read first verse of each chapter
- Read first verse of each paragraph

Four Questions a demanding reader asks (adapted from M.J. Adler "How to Read a Book")

1. What is the book about as a whole?
2. What is it communicating about God, people and the world?
3. Do I believe it to be true?
4. What of it? (What's the significance?)

Do's and Don'ts

- Bible reading is not about smaller portions and details
- Avoid regression (going back over what you've just read)
- *Use a pointer/tracker/pacer. Finger, pen, old credit card, 3x5 card
 - move this pacer across the page a little faster than is comfortable for your eyes to follow.
 - Force yourself to keep up
- Have someone that you share your reading with
- Avoid subvocalization
- Faster reading takes practice
- Attention fades after 1 hour (some say 20 minutes)
- Use clear, bold, large print Bible
- Do not use a study Bible. Get a text edition.

Practice with Philippians

- Preview: how many pages?
- Read headings then first verse in each chapter
- Read 6-8 minutes using a pacer

Quiet Time Idea

- Read with a pen or pencil as a pacer and underline interesting things
- When done reading go back and pick the best verse underlined
- Meditate on this verse, journal, write it on a 3x5 card and keep it with you all day

Reading The New Testament

260 chapters, about 240 pages

Minutes

3 pages/day — 80 days —
4 pages/day — 60 days —
8 pages/day — 30 days —
10 pages/day — 24 days —
20 pages/day — 12 days —
30 pages/day — 8 days —

Initially you will read about 2 minutes a page. **How many minutes for each of the above?**

Assignment

- Pick a time to read each day for the week
- Choose a place free from distractions
- Set aside 20 minutes
- Set a time at end of the week to share what you've read w/ someone (ask if they'd do it too)
- Read a book each day for the next 6 days (Colossians, 1 Thess, 2 Thess, 1 Tim, 2 Tim, Titus)