

PART III: Let's Practice The Word of God



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LAST WEEK'S PRACTICE.

Last week's practice was to continue setting aside intentional time to read the Scriptures daily, doing Lectio Divina, with the goal of developing a relationship with God

- What has "given you life" the most when doing this practice?
- What has cost you the most to start doing this practice or to be more consistent?
- How do you think this daily practice impacted your week?

SUMMARY.

A very essential part of our training is reading the scriptures. Perhaps the best way to practice reading the Word of God with effort and discipline is to ask for love for it. When you truly love God, you will also love his Word. For whoever loves God, will love what He says, and what He thinks. And not only will he read and love the scriptures, but he will also obey what it says

SUNDAY'S TEACHING.

- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you (or got your attention) about Sunday's teaching?

Psalms 119:97-98

- What do you think is the biggest obstacle to loving the scriptures?

- Do you think there is a correlation between the more someone reads the Bible, the more they will love it? Or do you think it's unrelated? Why or why not?
- What practical step could you take this week to move forward in your Bible reading consistency?

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE.

Our community is built around the idea of practicing Jesus. It is important to go to church on Sundays and listen to the teaching, but if you stay there it is not of much use. In the words of James, "Don't just listen to the word of God; They have to put it into practice. Otherwise, they are only deceiving themselves. (James 1:22)" That is why our goal should not be just to read the Bible, but to put it into practice

THE PRACTICE.

- As we develop the habit of reading Scripture, we learn to find ourselves in God's story. The Scriptures begin to help us see the world as God sees it and to be formed into his image. And Lectio Divina is one of the best ways to read the Bible, not to fill ourselves with information, but to have an encounter with God, and let the Holy Spirit speak to us through the scriptures, and then put it into practice
- LECTIO DIVINA which is a tested way to encounter God in the pages of Scripture. So as we do this, simply notice where you feel the Spirit speaking to you through the text. Pay attention to the posture of your heart, doing your best to open yourself to the voice of God and let the words you hear challenge you, shape you, and bless you. We will follow these five steps to guide our time: Stillness, reading, encounter, apply, devotion
- **Stillness:** To start, let's put aside our phones or any distractions and get into a comfortable but alert position. Let's take a few moments to breathe deeply in and out, centering ourselves before God. Do your best to let go of any worries or thoughts and focus on this moment and on God

- **Read:** Now you are going to read Psalm 27 individually, read it slowly, don't rush. As you read it, pay attention to which verses, phrases, or words catch your attention. Underline it, or make a mark on it
- **Encounter:** Now meditate on what The Holy Spirit showed you and highlighted. Reflect and write in the blank space below (or in a notebook, which is what we recommend) answering the question: **What could the Holy Spirit be telling me?**
- **Apply:** Next, let's name and write what The Holy Spirit might be inviting. Answer the question: **How can I accept and put into practice this invitation that The Holy Spirit is making to me (which I wrote in the previous point); How am I going to put it into practice tonight, tomorrow and next week?**
- **Devotion:** Finally, we will take a moment to write a prayer, committing to what The Holy Spirit has been revealing to us and how we want to be transformed by him and his truth. And thus, being able to trust that it's The Holy Spirit that makes our transformation

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE.

This week we want to focus on the fourth step of Lectio Divino which is APPLY. There is very little point in reading the scriptures if you are not responding to what the Holy Spirit is inviting you to. If you only read the Bible once a week, because that's where you are; excellent. But make sure you put it into practice. If you read the Bible every day but you are not putting it into practice, the reality is that you are just filling yourself with information. So the challenge and practice this week is for you to obey, as soon as possible, what you wrote in step four, apply

Start this week by obeying what you wrote today. Maybe today, or tomorrow. Do it as soon as possible. And continue with the reading plan, making sure you do your best, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to obey what you are writing

The passages are:

- Thursday: Luke 24 and Psalms 28
- Friday: Acts 1 and Psalms 29-30
- Monday: Acts 2 and Psalms 31
- Tuesday: Acts 3 and Psalms 32-33
- Wednesday: Acts 4 and Psalms 34

If you're just starting out with our reading plan, or are not up to today, no problem. Just continue on the day you are. We are not looking for perfection, but to practice. And if you already have a daily scripture reading rhythm, consider adding something like Bible memorization to your scripture practice

Next week, we will take the time to listen to how we put into practice what The Holy Spirit told you during the week