

Chapter 9

Studying God's Word

God speaks to us in a number of ways. One of these ways is through nature, which surrounds us. (Read Rom 1:20.) Another way is through the events of our lives, the things that happen to us every day. He also speaks to us through the Holy Spirit's influence on our hearts.

But above all, God speaks to us through His written Word—the Bible. Study the Bible. Know for yourself what it says. "We must not accept the word of any person as to what the Bible teaches. We must study the Word of God for ourselves. If we allow others to think for us, our minds will become weak, and we will not be able to do hard study" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89).

The Bible is a book you can study for yourself, even if you don't have a lot of school education. "The Bible was written for everybody, not just for well-educated people. The great truths that tell us how to be saved are as clear as

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Diyin Bizaad Bóhojiil'aahgo

Diyin God éi lahgóó yee nihich'i' yáfti'. Nahasdzáán yii' ádayiilaaígíí t'áá ałtsogóó dahólóonii Diyin binitsékees yee íshjání ádayoolíí. (Rom 1:20 yíníłta'.) Áádóó t'áá ákwíí jį nihá áhóót'įdíígíí binahjį' Diyin nihich'i' hanádzih. Ałdó' Níłch'i Diyinii t'áá bí nihíni' biyi'jį' nihich'i' hanáánádzih.

Áko nidi Diyin God bee hach'i' hanádzihígíí aláahdi át'ėii éi Bizaad bee ak'e'ashchínígíí át'ė. T'áá ni Saad Diyinii bee ak'e'ashchínėę hazh'óó bíhwiidííł'ááł d'óó bóhól'aahígíí nabínítah doo; t'áá ni Bizaad biyi'd'óó naninitinígíí nił bééhodooził. "Diné ła' sháą' Diyin God Bizaad kóniigi át'ė, níigo nił halne'go, doo bił bééhózingóó daats'í ánii ła. Áko Diyin yee haadzí'ígíí t'áá ni naniłkaah doo. Háí shį t'áá áłahjį' diné náánáła' há nitsékeesgo áko háni' doo bidziil da jileeh, d'óó nitsídahakees bidziilii doo bízhneel'ąą da jileeh lá" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89).

T'áá ni Diyin Bizaad bíhwiidííł'áałgo át'ė, azhá doo yéego íniłta' da shį nidi. "Diyin Bizaad éi diné wódahgo da'íłta'ii doo éi t'ėi bá ályaa da. Diné t'áá ałtso bá ályaa. Diyin Bizaad éi t'áá aaníinii ayóó át'ėii bee yisdá'iildéhígíí

noonday. No one will lose the way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the way God has plainly shown" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89).

It's true that we can learn from the Bible *for* ourselves, but that doesn't mean we can learn from it *by* ourselves. We need the help of God's Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17), to understand God's Word correctly. It is possible to misunderstand what the Bible says. That is why we need the Spirit's help. Never study the Bible without first asking God to help you understand what you read. When you ask for His help in Jesus' name the Holy Spirit will make things clear to you.

Studying the Bible for yourself, with the Holy Spirit's help, will make your mind grow strong. "Not much good can come from a careless reading of the Bible. We may read the whole Bible through and not see its beauty or understand its deep meaning. It is better for us to study one verse of Scripture until we understand what it means and what it tells us about the plan of salvation. This kind of study will

hach'ì' íshjání áyoolííł. Jóhonaa'éí ałníní'áago adinídingo hool'inígi át'éego hach'ì' íshjání ídoolííł. Áko doo ła' yóo-'azhdoogáki da, t'áa hazhó'ó diné ła' Diyin Bizaad biláahgo shił ééhózin nínígí t'éiyá" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89).

T'áa hó Diyin God Bizaad joołta'go bíhwiizhdooł-'aałgo yá'át'ééh, nidi t'áa sáhigo – Níłch'i Diyinii t'áa géedgo t'óo jółta'go – éi doo bíughah da. Níłch'i Diyinii, "t'áa aaníinii íshjáá áyoolííłii" (John 14:17), háká análwo'go t'éiyá Diyin Bizaad nizhónigo bik'izhdi'dootííł. Doo ákót'éégóo baa nitsídzíkeesgo haz'áa lá. Éi biniinaago Níłch'i Diyinii háká análwo'go t'éiyá ts'ídá yá'át'éehgo bik'izhdi'dootííł. Áko t'ah doo Diyin Bizaad ąą áníléehgóo, Níłch'i Diyinii shíká adíłwoł dóo Nizaad shich'ì' íshjání adíłííł, bidiní. Jesus bízhi'ígí binahjí' yíníkeedgo nitsaago níká adoolwoł.

T'áa hó Diyin Bizaad níjółtahgo, Níłch'i Diyinii beego, áko hání' éi bidziil yileeh. "Nidi t'óo tsxííłgo ajółta'go t'áadoo bik'izh'diitííłí da. Diyin Bizaad t'áa si'áa nít'éé' yizhdooł-tahgo shíł há bohónéedzą, nidi na'nitin yá'át'éehii doo t'áa át'é bik'izhdi'dootííł da. T'áa díkwí saad dah naazhaa'go t'éi jółta' dóo yéego baa nitsídzíkees dooleeł. Diyin Bizaad biyi'dóo ła' bóhojił'ąą'go bik'izh'diitánígí nabízhnítaah dóo bee jiináa doo. T'áa ákót'éego Diyin Bizaad bínáhojił'aahgo

help us more than reading many pages without any real purpose" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 90).

"We cannot understand the Bible unless we study it carefully and pray for wisdom. Some parts of the Bible are so plain that anyone can understand them. But other parts need deep study, with some verses being compared with others" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 90). After studying this way, think prayerfully about what you've read. Anyone who does this will learn valuable things from the Bible.

We need both of the things we have just mentioned. The first thing is careful research. (This means not just reading quickly, but stopping to compare one passage with another.) The second thing we need is prayerful reflection. (This means fixing texts in our minds and thinking about what they mean during the day, with the Holy Spirit's help.)

Study is like eating. If you study but don't remember what you learned, that won't help you. What good would it do to chew up food without swallowing it? You can never get strength from your food if you don't swallow and digest

dóó bee jínáago t'éí ílǵí lá – t'áá ádzaagóó, tsxǵǵgo shíí ajólta'go, t'áadoo biniyéhi da" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 90).

"Ayóo jólta'go dóó nijǵkaah biniyé sozdilzingo t'éiyá Diyin Bizaad bik'izhdi'dootǵǵ. Bee ak'e'ashchínígíí bitahdóó ła' ts'ídá t'áá bééhózinígo bik'izh'diitǵǵ ǵeh. Nidi ła'da yee ak'e'ashchínígíí doo bééhózingóó nidantǵ'ah lá. Díidí doo hah bik'izhdi'dootǵǵ da. Saad dah naazhjaa'ígíí aǵh'ǵ' naninil. Hazhó'ó yínǵta'go dóó baa nitsíníkeesgo bíhwiidǵǵ- 'ááǵ." (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 90). Áádóó bik'ǵǵ' sodizin k'ehgo baa nitsíníkees doo. T'áá ákót'éego Diyin Bizaad nanǵkaahgo ts'ídá ílǵinǵi bik'idǵínááǵ át'é.

Díí naakigo haz'ánígíí ha'nínéǵ bídin jǵǵ. Jó áǵtsé, Diyin Bizaad biyí'dóó ła' hazhó'ó bihwiizhdooǵ'ááǵ. (Doo t'áadoo biniyéhiígóó yizhdooǵtah da, nidi saad dah naazhjaa'ígíí aǵh'ǵ' nǵiinilgo, yéego nijǵkaahgo, yá'át'éehgo bits'ááǵǵé' íhwiizhdooǵ'ááǵ.) Naaki góne' éiyá, jǵǵta'ígíí bik'izhdi'dootǵǵ biniyé sozdilzin dooleeǵ. (Áko Nǵǵh'i Diyinǵi háká anáǵwo'go, jǵǵta' yéǵ doo baazhdiyoonaah da.)

Ha'át'ǵí shíí t'óó tsxǵǵǵgo jǵǵta'ígíí shíí, t'áadoo hazhó'ó bik'izh'diitǵǵǵ'góó, t'óó baazhdiyoonaah ǵeh. Díí ákóǵit'ǵigo éi azh'nǵiyáǵ'go jǵí'aal, nidi doo jǵǵna'ígíí, yǵǵ aheet'éeé lá. Jó

it; no strength comes from just chewing. It's the same way with the Bible. You should read it carefully, but don't just read. Also think about it through the day and let the Holy Spirit apply it to your life.

If you study God's Word this way you will get help and strength from it. First ask the Holy Spirit to teach you. Next study carefully (don't just read through quickly). And then, think prayerfully about what you have read.

"Nothing will strengthen the mind more than study of the Scriptures. No other book can lift the thoughts as does the Bible. If God's Word were studied as it should be, people would have broader minds and more noble characters. Bible study helps a person to have a purpose in life" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89). This kind of firmness and wisdom is something we don't see nearly often enough.

David said: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). Spend time

ákót'éego doo hadziil jileeh da! Diyin Bizaad dóo ch'iyáán t'áa aheelt'éego cho'í nahalin. Hazhó'ó jidoołtah, nidi doo t'óo jidoołtah da. Ałdó' sodizinee baa nitsízdookos áádóo bik'ehgo hwe'iina' iit'ih doo.

Díigi át'éego Diyin Bizaad bóhojiil'aahgo bits'áádóo il ééhózin dóo diyin k'ehgo adziil nízhdidooléel lá. Áłtsé Níłch'i Diyinii yéego na'nitinígíí baa níjookaąahgo yíníłta'. Áádóo bik'jii' łahda yíníłta'ąa sodizin k'ehgo baa tsínídikos dooleel.

"Diyin Bizaad éi hazhó'ó bóhojiil'aahgo éi bee háni' bidziil yileeh. Naaltsoos wólta'ígíí t'óo ahayóí, nidi t'áadoo ła' Diyin Bizaad yił aheelt'éhí da. Díí Saadígíí t'éi aláahgo hanitsékees dego kóyiił'í dóo hojyáągo áhósin łeh, háálá t'áa si'áa nít'éé' t'áa aaníí át'é. T'áa aaníinii biyi'di dahólóonii éi daditá dóo danitsaa nahalin. Diné ła' Diyin Bizaad ts'ídá hazhó'ógo nijılkaah ládąa' áko háni' bidziil dooleel, dóo hanitsékees niłtólí dooleel, dóo doo hoł naaki nilíni da doo" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 89). Diné kót'éego bił ééhózinii doo łá'í da.

David, aláahgo naat'áanii yęę, áni: "Doo nich'í' ádił ni'isíiuh da doo biniyé nizaad shijéi bii' nídél'íí' " (Psalm

with Jesus and think about the way He lived. Doing this will not leave you unchanged. If you want to be like Jesus, keep Him in your thoughts. If you want to keep Jesus in your thoughts, read about Him in His Word.

119:11). Jesus hoł yi'ashgo dóo baa nitsídzíkeesgo t'éiyá t'áá bígi ájít'é jidooleeł. Jesusgi ánisht'ée dooleeł jinízingo, bí baa nitsídzíkees dóo bí bééjłnih doo. Áko Jesus baa nitsíníkees dooleeł nínízingo, Bizaad éi hazhó'ó yínłta'.