

Beginning POMGAP

THIS METHOD CAN BE QUICK AND SIMPLE OR YOU CAN SPEND MORE TIME AT EACH STAGE. Don't be paralyzed if you don't have time to ask all the questions listed below. They are there so that if you have time you can use them. But the point is that by the Spirit we can read, meditate, listen, enjoy, be humble to submit to, and apply God's word. It is there where we get to enjoy Jesus and grow to be like him. His power is at work in a unique way every time you read. So...

Begin reading your Bible this very day. The way to do a thing is to do it, and the way to read the Bible is actually to read it. It is not meaning, or wishing, or resolving, or intending, or thinking about it; that will not advance you one step. You must positively read...If you cannot read yourself, you must persuade somebody else to read to you. But one way or another, through eyes or ears the words of Scripture must actually pass before your mind.

– JC Ryle *Practical Religion: Being Plain Papers on the Daily Duties, Experiences, Dangers, and Privileges of Professing Christians*. p 94 (Quoted in *Reading the Bible for Life* by George H. Guthrie, p 14.)

P- Pray

The point here is that this is not mechanical. This is spiritual. The Holy Spirit is alive in the words of Scripture and we are inviting him in to change our lives, illumine our minds with understanding, awaken our spiritual eyes, and stir our hearts to deep affection.

Example:

IOUS- These are possible prayers before I read the Bible- (adapted from John Piper)

I- Incline my heart to your word- Psalm 119:36;

O- Open my the eyes of my heart Psalm 119:18;

U- give me an Undivided heart- Psalm 86:11;

S- Satisfy me with Jesus- Psalm 90:14

O- Observations/Questions

Write down any observations or questions that come to mind including other passages that teach similar themes or use similar words.

Look for repeating words, other patterns, characters, NT use of OT passages, transition/connecting words like “therefore, because, for, but, and, in order that, so that, although,” prepositions (like “with Christ” in Gal. 2:20), Question and answers in a text, cause and effect, means, lists, pronouns (asking who is he talking about), comparisons, major shifts in themes or stories, emotions, tone, poetic images or parallelism, etc.

G- Gospel

Check yourself here. The main idea or timeless truth will always include us knowing the person and/or work of Jesus.

Write down where you see Jesus- his character and/or his work in the passage? If you are...

In the Old Testament

Jesus says that the Scriptures speak about him and that *in Him* all the promises are yes and Amen (cf. Luke 24:27, 44, John 5:46, 2 Cor. 1:20)

Platt says to read OT narrative look for meaning on 3 levels: the individual history, the national history, and the redemptive history. Especially as you deal with the redemptive history level you will be asking how this text, points towards who Jesus is and what he has done, especially in its literary context, but with a keen eye for key words or themes or how other authors in other genres treat these narratives

In the New Testament

Jesus and how he relates to us is much more explicit to the meaning of the text. Although this gets to some application you can also see how the text might be communicating to us our *Identity* in him, His *Provision and Promise* for us, and/or the *Process* of change, growth, maturity he is taking us through because we are in Christ.

Identity in Christ (ex. new creation, righteous, saint, holy, Spirit-filled, etc.)

Provision/Promises for us by Christ (ex. chosen, called, made alive, give faith and repentance, forgiven, justified, adopted, sanctified, glorification)

Process empowered by Christ- (ex. God is patient with us, he will get us to the end, this text tells us our spiritual maturity is a journey not an instant moment.)

A- Application

Eternal, Internal, External

These are not just three words but three questions that you ask yourself as you seek to apply God’s word (taken in part from Ed Marcelle at Acts 29 Boot Camp in Raleigh, NC, February 2009). Whether you are leaving a sermon, reading a passage of Scripture or working on a book study, we can ask these three questions to apply the Scripture.

- 1) Eternal: What can you learn about God? 2) Internal: What is God teaching you about your heart? 3) External: What (and with whom) can you share with others?

The thread that ties these three together is the G- the gospel of Jesus. So we are applying the gospel as we apply the Scriptures to our lives. (Read *The Gospel Primer* as a great beginning book on how to apply the gospel to your heart)

External: Where can we see and know God’s glory the clearest? At the cross (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5). 2) Internal: Where can we get help for our sinful heart? From Jesus, the Savior and substitute for sinners (1 Peter 3:18a). 3) External: What do we need to share with others- either believers or unbelievers? The gospel man - Jesus Christ. The message - Christ perfect yet crucified then raised from dead on the third day, and the gospel’s power and benefits (Romans 1:16).

Eternal:

Internal:

What is God convicting me of? (How should I think?, What should I do? Where should I go?)

Who am I in Christ? (see the gospel section above)

External

Who will I share with? or teach?

P- Pray these things, this Scripture into your life.

Ex. Colossians 1:9-21

God cause me to love your Son. Oh Father change me into his likeness, make me more like him. Give me His strength that I might endure in my marriage and I might be patient with my kids. God turn me from my sin of forgetting you and thanklessness. God help me believe in the power of Jesus I see here. His power to make me fit (to qualify me) to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. God give me eyes to see your beauty and grace. Grant me peace and joy.