

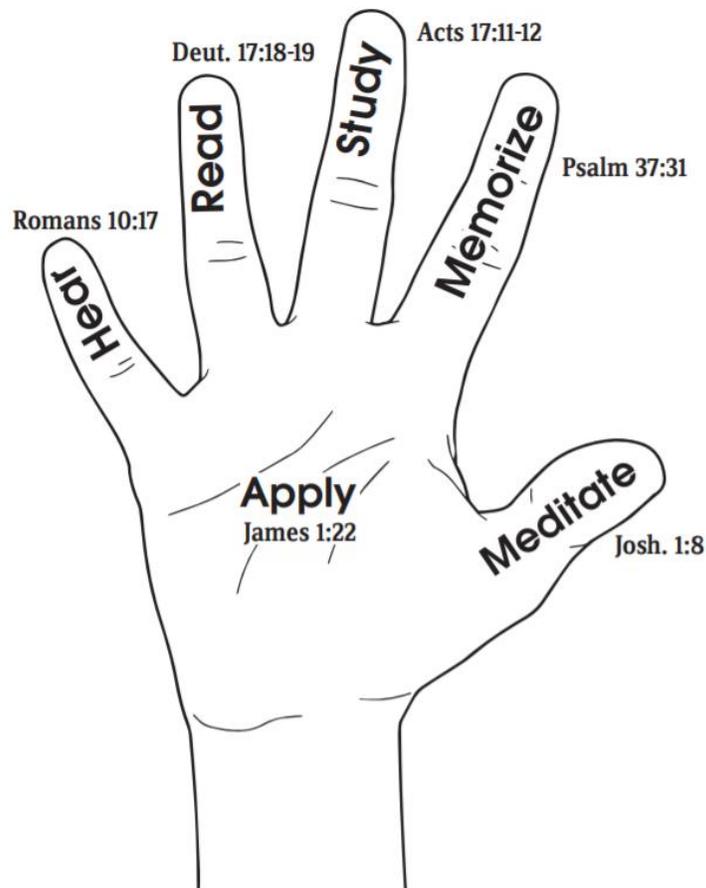
God's Word: The Hand

The Bible is the foundation of the Christian faith. It is how God reveals himself to us. In fact, it is the only thing in existence that is itself breathed out by God. Let's look at this verse:

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." -2 Timothy 3:16-17

What does this verse teach us about the Bible?

Because the Bible is so important, we need to make sure we have a "good grip" on it. There are six main ways we can get a good grip on the Bible. Look at the illustration below.



These six things will help us not only understand what God is telling us through Scripture, but will help us apply it to our lives. Let's look at these points one by one. What does each verse say about each part of the hand?

1. **Hear** - *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” -Romans 10:17.* There are lots of ways for us to hear the Bible--sermons at church, podcast, and YouTube videos to name a few.
2. **Read** - *“And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them...” -Deuteronomy 17:18-19.* Every Christian should be consistently reading their Bible. It is the only thing God has given that he himself has breathed out and equips us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
3. **Study** - *“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men” -Acts 17:11-12.* When we study the Bible, we dig deeper beneath the surface to understand God more deeply. Different kinds of Bible studies include word studies, character studies, or working through a passage.
4. **Memorize** - *“The law of God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.” -Psalm 37:31.* Memorizing Scripture is the best way to get God’s word into your heart. When you have Scripture memorized, God will frequently bring it to mind when you need it the most, like when you’re tempted to sin, need encouragement, or have an opportunity to share your faith.
5. **Meditate** - *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.” -Joshua 1:8.* Meditating on Scripture helps us stay connected with God throughout the day. Thinking about a passage’s meaning and application to our lives transforms us.
6. **Apply** - *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” -James 1:22.* Application holds it all together. That’s why it is the palm--all the fingers are connected to it. If we have done all five things but haven’t applied what we’ve learned, we’ve wasted our time.

When we do one or two of these things, we start to get a grip on the Bible, but it can still be pulled out of our hand. Try to pull it out of my hand when I’m holding it with only my ring and pointer fingers. Now try to pull it out of my hand when I’m holding it with all five. In the same way, the more ways we are getting the Bible in us, the better grip we will have on it.

Which one or two of these six things do you do well? Which one or two do you need to work on?

Next Step: _____