

## Walking With The Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalms 119:105, ESV)

What make the word of God special? It's age? It's reverence among people for thousands of years? It's words of condensed wisdom and truth in every line of every page? Yes, for these reasons and more. The word of God is God-breathed, the very word revealed for our reading, understanding, and application. We read, then we interpret, then we compare the word to our daily lives so we know how we should walk. Let's focus on four methods of being led by God's lamp.

1. Bible study at the building. This is what we do every Lord's Day morning and every Wednesday night. How do we benefit from this study? We have the opportunity to bring pens and paper to take notes on what is discussed, to read the text of the Bible before we meet so it is fresh in mind, and to volunteer questions, answers, and points of discussion while we study. This study we have when assembled is good. Nevertheless, it is not the only study we should have during the week.

2. Participating with brethren during sermons. We do this twice every Lord's Day, in the morning and evening. Public examination and exhortation spurs thoughts for discussion and doing in our personal lives. A sermon takes place while the entire church is assembled, so dialogue is regulated by Paul's instruction for public worship. Yet, active listening is participation and is good for later discussion afterwards, when we are not assembled to worship.

3. Personal/Private Bible study. We should do this on a regular basis. Why not daily? We eat approximately three times a day. What if we singled out one meal, perhaps lunch, and used that as an opportunity to read while we ate? Turn off the television, radio; get away from the computer, newspaper, and focus on the Bible. As you are nourished with food, you may be nourished with the word of God. Brethren, we trust one another to be self-feeders of pizza and fried chicken to meet our own physical hunger. Let us also recognize our daily hunger for the word of God and desire to be self-feeders of God's word as well.

4. Bible study at home. Collective study gives us opportunity to experience fellowship with one another in our homes, to practice leadership in organizing the study, and to show mercy, that is hospitality, to others. Once a month is a good start for a home Bible study. Pick a book of scripture, a series of topics, and invite brethren to your home to participate.

All four of these methods require prayer. I like to pray before studying: it focuses my attention on God's word and application to my life while giving reverence to God first. Consider your attendance, attention, and participation in the study of God's word as an act of sacrifice you personally make to God.