



June 30, 2015

## Minds and Parachutes

By Teresa Hampton

This week I saw a bumper sticker that said, “Minds are like parachutes. They only work when they are open.” I suppose that’s true about many things, but especially so about God’s word and man’s use of it.

Do you know how many homes in the U.S. have a Bible? Nine out of ten.\* However, despite having a Bible in the home, only 37% report reading it once a week or more. Of those who read their Bible only 57% say that it made them think about how to apply it each day. Many people are simply not opening their Bibles and allowing God to speak to them.

Additionally, the number one reason people gave for lack of reading the Bible was busyness. People let daily duties and responsibilities hinder them from opening their Bibles and their hearts to listen to God.

The sad fact is that some members of the Lord’s body fall into the same pattern with neglected Bible reading, lack of application of scripture in daily living, and allowing their busy lifestyles to supersede reading and studying the Bible.

Someone once said that B.U.S.Y. means “Being Under Satan’s Yoke.” If we let our busy schedules, activities, work, or play interfere with getting to know God through His word, shame on us. If you find yourself in a lull reading scripture, explore creative ways to reignite your passion. A few months ago I read something God commanded newly appointed kings. *Write for himself a copy of the law in a book...and it shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of the law* (Deut. 17:18-19). Since reading this, I am copying the New Testament, beginning with Matthew. It is an enlightening way to read God’s word. I call it “God’s reading plan.”

As a sobering side note, minds and parachutes have a second thing in common. When the parachute is not opened, the diver perishes. Likewise, if a person is unwilling to open the Bible, and open their heart to know God through his word, he or she will perish!

**Today’s Verse:** *Oh, How I love your law! It is my meditation all the day* (Psalm 119:97).

**Today’s Bonus:** see next page

\* [https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/664-the-state-of-the-bible-6-trends-for-2014#.VZHk\\_mAriQI](https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/664-the-state-of-the-bible-6-trends-for-2014#.VZHk_mAriQI)

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Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. [all verses NKJV]

Psalm 12:6 The words of the Lord *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Psalm 19:7-10 The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

Psalm 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.

Psalm 119:129-130 Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day.

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalm 119:127 Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold!

Psalm 119:131 I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.

Psalm 119:123 My eyes fail *from seeking* Your salvation And Your righteous word.

Psalm 119:174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law *is* my delight.

Psalm 119:144 The righteousness of Your testimonies *is* everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Romans 10:17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.