



# HOAW Newsletter

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

September 2020

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

## Getting A Grip

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Getting to the truth today requires uncommon persistence and wisdom. "Your truth ends where my nose begins." "That's your truth but not my truth." "What is truth?" Perhaps you have heard these comments lately. Obscuring truth is commonplace today. So, where do we go for truth? What can we do to uncover the truth?

When I was younger, I was told an interesting story about the training of treasury agents. To accurately determine forged currency, would be agents were only allowed to handle the real thing until the end of their training when counterfeit bills were inserted in the mix. Having handled the true thing for so long, they were able to immediately spot the false bills.

So, where do we go for truth so we can readily determine falsehood? I believe we need to go to the inspired

word of God for the following reasons.

- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*
- *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).*
- To the Jews who had believed him (and certainly us by implication), Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:31-32).
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the

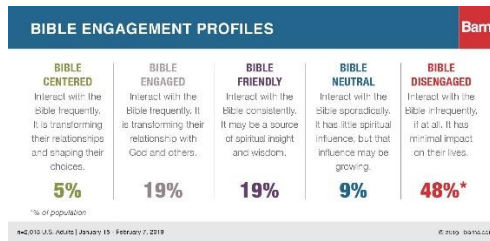
truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come (John 16:13).

- Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth (John 17:17).
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

Rightly handling the truth is a fundamental skill all followers of Christ should master. An epidemic in the church is growing biblical illiteracy. Not knowing the truth will make us susceptible to embracing lies disguised as truth.

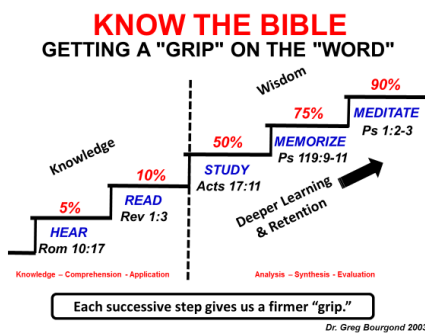
*George Barna and American Bible Society defined five different segments of Bible engagement which measure Frequency (how often people interact with the Bible), Centrality (how the Bible shapes their choices) and Impact*

(how the Bible transforms their relationships).



Given these statistics, is it any wonder that more and more Christian believers are losing their grip on their understanding and application of God's truth in their lives? Does your church stress the importance of 'rightly handling the word of truth'? Does your church actively and regularly encourage you to learn how to study and apply God's word? Are there frequent opportunities to do so?

To 'get a grip' on God's word we need to do more than listen to sermons and engage in bible reading plans.



Have you ever wondered why you retain so little after listening to a sermon or a podcast? Have you ever wondered why you can't remember much of what you read? Retention of God's word grows with each deeper step you take.

- **HEAR** - Romans 10:17  
Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (5%).

- **READ** - Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near (10%).
- **STUDY** - Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true (50%).
- **MEMORIZE** - Psalm 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (75%).
- **MEDITATE** - Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers (90%).

We can certainly gain 'knowledge' from hearing and reading God's word. But wisdom can only be gained by digging deeper into the Bible through study, memorization, and focused meditation of it. Most Christians I know restrict their exposure to the word to hearing and reading it.

That limitation may produce knowledge, comprehension, and attempts at application. A firmer grip that will produce wisdom, however, requires a more concentrated effort resulting from analysis, synthesis, and evaluation by study, memorization, and meditation.

Many of you may be familiar with a very popular the TV show CSI (Crime Scene Investigator). Their job was to go to a crime scene, gather evidence, process that evidence in a lab, and provide a plausible scenario as to what actually happened at the crime site. What makes a CSI agent capable of finding evidence at a crime scene a casual observer may miss? The answer is training. CSI agents are schooled in forensic skills such as alternate light source training, arson investigations, crime scene documentation, crime scene investigations, death investigations, evidence photography, footwear and tire tread, forensic anthropology, latent print detection/comparison, digital photography, crime scene mapping, crime scene management, bloodstain pattern analysis, and latent print processing.

Given these tools they are able to see things at a crime site you and I would miss. When it comes to the study of the Bible, we too must be trained in skills that will aid our observation, interpretation, and application of the truths found therein.

**OBSERVATION** answers the question, "What does the verse, passage, chapter actually SAY?"

**INTERPRETATION** answers the question, "What does the verse, passage, chapter MEAN?"

Finally, APPLICATION answers the questions, "How does this passage APPLY in general? How does this passage APPLY to me specifically?"

In the next newsletters, we will explore how to study the Bible. We will identify the best tools to use and effective techniques to uncover God's truth. Hopefully, by the end of the series you will have a much better grip on God's word.

## OTHER NEWS



**Heart of a Warrior Ministries** offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

**Foundations of a Warrior** (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

**The Compass** (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

**The Map** (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

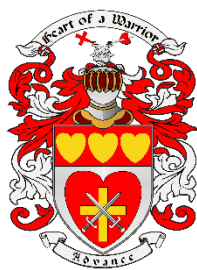
**The Guide** (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.  
[www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/](http://www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/)

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at HOAWMinistries.com.

## Speaking Engagements

- **October 2-4** – Man Camp, Westboro, WI
- **October 24** – Men's Breakfast, Alexandria, MN



## Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on [heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org). Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out *The Store* on our website ([www.heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org)). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

## Websites for Men

**Heart of a Warrior Ministries**  
[www.Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.Heartofawarrior.org)

**Legacy Minded Men**  
[www.legacymindedmen.org](http://www.legacymindedmen.org)

**Church for Men**  
<http://churchformen.com/>

**Resolute**  
<https://beresolute.org/>

**Life Way Men**  
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

**Men's Fraternity**  
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

**Man in the Mirror**  
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

**Men with No Regrets**  
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

**National Collision of Men's Ministries**  
<http://ncmm.org/>

**Every Man's Battle**  
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

**Iron Sharpens Iron**  
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

**Ransomed Heart Ministries**  
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

**Band of Brothers**  
[www.bandofbrothers.org/](http://www.bandofbrothers.org/)

**Man Up God's Way**  
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

**Iron Works**  
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>