

Spiritual Exercises for Adventists

**SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; FOR IN THEM YE
THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: AND THEY ARE
THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME.**

John 5:39

Chapter 9

STUDY

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

When a person is a student of the Bible it shows. I love to hang out with people who study the Bible, because it’s comforting for me. I can’t explain it, but I feel safer with saints. Not that I don’t trust in God, or have faith, no it’s just that I want to be with those kind of people.

I don’t know if I should mention this, but our pastors can tell if we’re active Bible students. Our speech, our actions, our demeanor reveals our spiritual life. Anyone can read our spiritual condition after spending a brief amount of time with us. It’s not difficult. This also means that our pastors can tell when we’re dry cisterns, and this is a challenging issue for them. You see, it’s got to be discouraging for them to have a congregation that’s separated from Christ. If we are worldly minded—interested in material things, if our hearts reveal a lack of love brought on by a distant and infrequent relationship with His Word, we become consumers of ministry instead of producers, and it becomes im-

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possible for us to strengthen our pastors. Our entire church model is turned upside down.

So, our need is substantial, and it's no secret.

One doesn't have to be a pastor or have half the Bible memorized to be a student. But just spending time in God's Word on a regular basis makes a difference.

Reading scripture is discovery! It's new every time because our vantage point changes as we grow or shrink spiritually. It always has something to tell us, and the Holy Spirit guides our thoughts as we study to apply truth to our lives in a practical way.

There are many, many ways to study the Bible, and I'm not sure how many to mention because I'm sure you are already aware of a sufficient number.

The Internet is full of prearranged studies. There are study Bibles. There are short studies prepared by the church and independent ministries. There is always the Sabbath School Lesson. There are Bible textbooks. There are many books available at the Christian book store. This list could be very large, indeed.

So I don't need to spend a great deal of time on this subject, except to point out that "truth" does matter.

Jesus said He would send us the Spirit of Truth, and He emphasized the importance of searching for truth.

The apostle Paul said "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thess. 5:21.

So, our daily exercise needs to include this component as it establishes a foundation for daily thought and action.