



# HOW TO ENCOUNTER THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN YOUR DAILY BIBLE READING

## F U L F I L L M E N T

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*"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39*

*"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Luke 24:27*

The Bible is not an end in itself. Yes, it is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. Simply reading and studying it, however, is not the end; the Bible is a means to the end of knowing and encountering Christ.

- » Jesus was a man of the Word. He obviously loved the Bible. He memorized and meditated on it. One-tenth of His words in the Gospels were quotes of Old Testament scripture.
- » Jesus, however, rebuked religious people who regarded the Bible as an end in itself. (See John 5:39.) Specifically the Bible does not give eternal life; only Christ gives eternal life. The Bible does, however, point to Christ and reveal Christ.
- » For Jesus, the Bible did not replace the prophetic word; rather it gave Him a context with which to judge and discern the prophetic word.
- » When Jesus taught the word, He taught toward an encounter with the manifest presence of God. *"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" Luke 24:32*

### How to Read Toward an Encounter with Christ

1. **Read prayerfully.** Many great men and women of God read the Bible each day on their knees.

*"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Psalm 119:18*

2. **Read interactively.** Passivity is our enemy in prayer and Bible reading. Sobriety, watchfulness, alertness are our friends. In order to read interactively it is helpful to read with three different color pens:

Red = the promises of God; what God promises to do for us

Black = the commands of God; what God expects us to do

Blue = general information.

It is helpful to mark all the names of God throughout the Bible.

It is helpful to mark "MP" in the margin every time you find the manifest presence of God.

There are thousands of references to God's manifest presence.

3. **Read to grow your faith.** As you mark the promises of God, it should build your trust in what God promises to do for you.

*"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ." See Romans 10:17*

*"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." 2 Peter 1:4*

4. **Read to grow your obedience.** Every step of obedience is a step of encountering Christ. See Psalm 19:7-10.

5. **Read to activate your receptors.** All nine of the manifestation gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 are available to be activated as God chooses while reading the Bible. All the receptors we have in the physical realm are available to be activated in the spiritual realm – sight, hearing, taste, feeling, knowing.

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." Acts 2:17-18*

6. **Read to feed your spirit.** Beyond reading merely intellectually, you want to read intuitively and spiritually receptively.

*"For the word of God is living 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." Heb. 4:12*

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matt. 4:4*

*"The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." Rom. 8:6*

*Join the Chapter-A-Month Club so you can delight in His word and meditate day and night.*

*"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Josh. 1:8*

*"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." Psalm 1:2*

7. **Expect to encounter Christ on virtually every page.**

*"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are*

*more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”  
Psalm 19:7-10*

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