

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 819

January 22, 2025

## “Spiritual Discipline 1 - Bible Intake pt. 1”

Bible intake is absolutely central to the life of a believer.

The Scriptures are viewed as God's authoritative, inspired, and sufficient Word, and their role in the Christian life cannot be overstated. The Reformed tradition emphasizes that Bible intake is vital for spiritual growth, guidance, sanctification, and communion with God. Here are some key reasons Bible intake is crucial for a believer, integrating Scripture to illustrate each point:

### 1. The Scriptures as God's Revealed Word

In Reformed thought, the Bible is the primary way God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity. Without the Scriptures, believers would be left in the dark regarding God's will, His character, and His redemptive plan. The Bible is considered to be **God-breathed** (inspired) and carries ultimate authority in matters of faith and practice.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV):** *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

God has given His Word to equip believers for godly living, teaching them what is true, correcting them when they go astray, and training them in righteousness. Bible intake is essential to know God's will and to grow in grace.

### 2. The Bible as a Means of Grace

In Reformed theology, the Scriptures are a **means of grace**. Just as the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper) are means by which God strengthens and nourishes believers, so the Bible is a means through which God imparts spiritual life and growth. God uses His Word to work powerfully in the believer's life to transform, convict, and sanctify.

- **Romans 10:17 (ESV):** *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

Faith is not only initiated but also sustained through the Word of God. Regular Bible intake nourishes the believer's faith and strengthens them in their spiritual walk.

### 3. The Role of the Bible in Sanctification

The process of sanctification—the believer's growth in holiness—requires the continuous input of God's Word. The Bible is instrumental in helping believers become more like Christ. As they engage with Scripture, the Holy Spirit uses it to convict of sin, encourage obedience, and shape the believer's heart and mind.

- **John 17:17 (ESV):** *"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."*

Jesus prays for His disciples' sanctification by the truth, and He specifically identifies God's Word as the source of that truth. The Bible is indispensable in the process of sanctification, transforming believers through its truth.

### 4. Guidance for Christian Living

The Bible provides clear and sufficient guidance for how Christians are to live in the world. It outlines the moral law (such as the Ten Commandments), the ethical teachings of Jesus, and the apostolic instructions for the Church. It is a lamp to the believer's feet and a light to their path.

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

The Scriptures guide believers in how to navigate life, from the mundane to the profound, providing wisdom, direction, and a clear vision of God's will.

(NEXT WEEK: part 2)

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, January 22**

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm  
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 23**

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 26**

Worship Team Run Through  
@ 8:00 a.m.

**Worship @ 9:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm  
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 30, 2025**

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

**Helping Hands for  
JANUARY 26, 2024**

**ProPresenter  
Elizabeth Floyd  
Soundboard  
Jane Davis  
Live Streaming  
Al Floyd  
Communion  
Lynn Joyner  
Greeter  
Diane Mack**

**Scripture Text and Sermon  
This Coming Sunday  
Spiritual Disciplines for the  
Christian Life #3:**

**“Bible Intake (part 2)”  
Prov 22:17-19; Ps 119:98-99  
James 1:25**

**Prophecies O.T.  
Revealed.... N.T.**

Jan	19	John 10:16
Jan	20	Ex. 3:13-15
Jan	21	John 4:26,8:58
Jan	22	Ex. 12:5
Jan	23	Heb 9:14
Jan	24	Ex. 12:13

## GROW

**Women of HOPE  
Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE**

**1/25/25 - 10AM**

**“Responding to Anger - Learning  
to Answer Gently”**

**Wednesday Night  
Supper, Study, and Prayer  
Supper @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Please let me know you are  
coming**

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

**“Food of the Month”  
for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry  
Canned Meats and Meals  
We have a collection bin in the foyer**

**HOPE Meal Ministry  
Take a meal from the freezer if  
needed for you or someone else.**

## **SERVE**

**TLC Devotion  
4th Wednesday each month  
@ 11:00 a.m.  
5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh**

**“Sermon Preparation”**

**Begin to Memorize**

**Philippians 4:8**

Prayer Requests:

Kara’s (Kathi Jo’s daughter) husband,  
Christopher and the family, Upcoming vision  
team and PCMA meetings, Joan Rollinson,  
Ron Clifton, Will Floyd’s Fiancé’s Mother:  
Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard, Gene & Becky  
Hale, Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington,  
Cindy (Elizabeth), Dennis Grady, Nancy  
Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Barbara(81)  
Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn’s, Ebo (Glioblastoma  
#4)-family has 4 children, Hurricane Relief  
Efforts, Donna Williams & Family, Peggy  
Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty  
Moyer’s son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil,  
Steve Duckett, Corbin Broome, The Mallory  
family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta  
(Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley  
Riggleman (Bruce), Jordan (Lynn J.), Ellie  
Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin, our  
Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries.

**UPCOMING WOMEN OF  
HOPE GATHERING AT THE  
CHURCH**

**1/25/25 - 10AM**

**“Responding to Anger -  
Learning to Answer Gently”**

**Please remember that your  
Stewardship Commitment Cards for  
2025 are due**

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**Please prayerfully consider your  
financial and time  
support for  
Hope Church Raleigh.**

**God’s work is not for a few, but for all  
who would follow Jesus.**

**HOPE Church Raleigh  
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827  
Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org  
www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh  
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh  
YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”  
in the search box)**