

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 820

January 29, 2025

“Spiritual Discipline 1 - Bible Intake pt. 2”

5. Preserving and Promoting Sound Doctrine

Reformed theology holds that the Bible is the standard by which all doctrine is measured. The Scriptures contain the unchanging truths of the gospel, the nature of God, the work of Christ, and the promises to believers. Regular Bible intake is necessary to preserve and uphold sound doctrine, guarding against error and false teachings.

- **Titus 1:9 (ESV):** *"He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."*

For the health of the individual believer and the Church, a faithful grasp of the Scriptures is essential. Sound doctrine, rooted in the Word, protects believers from false teaching and helps them to grow in their understanding of the gospel.

6. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Bible Intake

In Reformed theology, the Holy Spirit is the one who illuminates the Scriptures for the believer. While the Bible is inspired and authoritative, the Holy Spirit's work is necessary for the believer to understand, believe, and apply God's Word. Bible intake is not just an intellectual exercise but a spiritual discipline in which the believer relies on the Spirit to open their heart and mind.

- **1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (ESV):** *"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."*

The Spirit helps believers to understand the deep truths of Scripture, making them clear and applicable to their lives. Bible intake, therefore, requires both the Word of God and the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

7. Communion with God through the Word

The Scriptures serve as a primary means by which believers commune with God. In Reformed theology, it is understood that through Bible intake, believers are not simply acquiring information but entering into a relationship with God. The Word of God is alive, speaking to the believer, convicting, comforting, and transforming them into Christ's likeness.

- **Hebrews 4:12 (ESV):** *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

The Bible is not a mere book of instructions; it is the living Word of God that actively engages the believer, revealing the deepest intentions of the heart and drawing them into closer fellowship with their Creator.

8. The Bible as a Source of Comfort and Hope

The Reformed tradition acknowledges the realities of suffering and the fallen world in which we live. In times of trial, the Word of God provides comfort, hope, and encouragement. The Bible assures believers of God's sovereignty, His promises, and His faithfulness.

- **Romans 15:4 (ESV):** *"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through the endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

The Scriptures, particularly in times of suffering, provide strength and endurance, reminding believers of God's promises and the hope they have in Christ.

Conclusion

In summary, Bible intake is essential in the life of the believer according to Reformed thinking, as it is the means by which God reveals Himself, nurtures faith, sanctifies, guides, and strengthens His people. The Scriptures are living and active, empowering the believer to live according to God's will and to grow in Christlikeness. Through regular and faithful engagement with the Word, believers not only understand sound doctrine but are transformed by it, growing in grace and communion with God.

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 2

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

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands for

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

Soundboard

Live Streaming

Franklin Johnston

Communion

Kathy Jo Duckett

Greeter

TBD

**Scripture Text and Sermon
This Coming Sunday**

**“Two Boats and a Helicopter”
Exodus 14:5-15
Elder Bill Joyner**

Prophecies O.T.

Revealed.... N.T.

Jan	26	Rom 5:8
Jan	27	Ex 12:21-27
Jan	28	1 Cor 5:7
Jan	29	Ex 12:46
Jan	30	John 19:31-36
Jan	31	Ex 15:2

GROW

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

2/8/25

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

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

**Please let Bill and Lynn 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

Notes for Wednesday

Prayer Requests:

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 #3/4)-
family has 4 children, Hurricane Relief
Efforts, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her
family, 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,
our Nation, and the World.

**New members discovery class
will begin on Sunday, February
9. If you're interested in finding
out more about Hope Church
Raleigh and are not currently a
member please consider
attending this. Bill Joyner will
be the lead teacher.**

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

2/22/25

**HOW CAN WE BEST USE OUR
SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW ARE
YOU GIVING BACK TO WHAT
GOD GAVE YOU?**

3/08/25

**TIME MANAGEMENT: HOW DO
YOU DO IT ALL?**

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www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

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in the search box)**