

Quiet Times – How to Study the Word using O, I, A

Before beginning select a passage (Usually 3-10 verses, and usually easy to identify by the paragraph indents). Once you have selected your passage, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and help you meet with God as you study. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate (bring light) to what you are about to read so you can understand it and apply it to your life.



1. **OBSERVATION – ask “What does the passage say?”**

Write down 10-15 observations about the passage:

- Who is writing or speaking and to whom?
- What is the passage about?
- Where does this take place?
- Why does the author write what he does?
- What problems were the recipients facing? How does this passage ?
- How does this passage fit in with the context? (What goes before and after?)
- What are the commands?
- What are the promises?
- What are the cause/effect relationships?
- What are the repeated words and ideas?
- What do I learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?



2. **INTERPRETATION – ask “What does the passage mean?”**

Write down what you think the 2 or 3 key “big ideas” of the passage are. In a few phrases, sum up the main thought (or 2 or 3 main thoughts) of the passage.



3. **APPLICATION – ask “How does this affect my life today?”**

This is where you purpose to do what God has taught you in your time with Him. It is through applying the Word that God changes our lives. It is usually best to concentrate on applying one principle at a time. Take time to write down one thing you can “live” out of this passage today:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to rest in?
- Is there sin that I need to repent of?
- Is there an action for me to take?