

## CONNECTING WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

March 22, 2015 Various Texts by Bob Branch\  
Raising The Bar To Normal, Part 4

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**MAIN IDEA:** Spending regular time connecting with God in His Word is normal for every Christian... *but many do not know how!* Our purpose this morning is to equip you to connect with God through daily time in His Word, thus knowing his presence, learning his ways, hearing his voice, responding to his promptings and in gratitude and worship, and being changed into his likeness.

### **PRACTICE 1: Lectio Divina** (“Divine Reading”)

...a series of reflective responses were developed to gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

**A Time and Place:** Consistent; distractions, calm-quiet

**Prepare To Read:** Read an INTRO for each book for context

**Prepare Yourself:** Quiet your heart; Ask the Holy Spirit to speak as you read

1. **Lectio (READING):** Read the Word of God, slowly & reflectively (aloud) so that it sinks into us. Repeat silently.
2. **Meditatio (REFLECTION):** Think about the passage, ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.  
Underline verses that stick out to you (write them in journal)  
Isolate one that speaks strongest to you (God’s voice to you)
3. **Oratio (RESPONSE):** Simply speak to God in response to our reflection.  
Write a reflective prayer interacting with God through it  
Pray that prayer *aloud* to God (with spouse?)  
Let it launch you into more prayer  
Interact with others on what you’re processing
4. **Contemplatio (REST):** Let go and simply rest in the Word of God. As we listen, we are gradually transformed from within.  
Should take 20-60 minutes altogether

## IN PRACTICE:

**PRACTICE 2: PRAYING THE WORD back to the Lord** (inserting yourself into the story/passage, praying it back to the Lord in 1st person, you and Him)

“See what great love You have lavished on me, that I am called Your child! And that is what I am! The reason the world does not know me is that it did not know You! Now I am your child, your son, and what I will be has not yet been made known. But I know that when You appear, I will be like You, for I will see You as You are. I have this hope in You, so I purify myself, just as You are pure.” **1 John 3:1–3** BPV

“You loved me so much that You gave Your one and only Son, so that I could believe in Him and not perish but have eternal life. For You did not send Jesus into the world to condemn me, but to save me through him. (Hallelujah!) So, I believe in him and am not condemned,...” **John 3:16–18** BPV

“You were despised and rejected by everyone, all mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces You were despised, and we held You in low esteem. Surely You took up my pain and bore my sorrow, yet I considered You punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But You were pierced for my transgressions, You were crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought me peace was laid on you, and by Your wounds I am healed, made whole! I am like a sheep, having gone astray, turning to only my own way; and the LORD has laid on You all my sin!” **Isaiah 53:1–6** BPV

### **PURPOSE: What does this do?**

- ✓ It allows us to Hear God each day in His Word (cultivate a hearing heart)
- ✓ As we agree with him, his truth will set us free (over time)
- ✓ It helps us develop spiritual consistency
- ✓ It allows us to interact with Text & digest it (SPACEPETS)
- ✓ We grow in spiritual depth and substance over time