

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: **“Transformed by Truth”**
DAY ONE: **“Transformed by Truth”**

Read: Psalm 1; excerpts from Psalm 119 (see ‘Dig’ below) (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 591, 670)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 185-186

Reflect: If you had to compare God’s word to a food, which of the following would it be most like to you?

(a) hot-fudge brownie sundae (or other dessert); (b) meat and potatoes; (c) stale bread.
What’s the reason for your answer?

Dig: Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Psalm 119. (If you want a shortcut version to Psalm 119 read in particular the following verses: 9-11,14-16, 20, 24, 28, 40, 47, 48, 71, 86, 89, 93, 97, 102, 105, 111, 120, 127, 129, 130, 133, 136, 138, 144, 147, 148, 165, 167.)

As you read these verses make a list of the actions, attitudes, and attributes you see--the actions that the author takes in response to God’s word, the attitudes he has toward it, and the attributes or functions that he sees of God’s word. To get you started, one word under each heading has been filled in.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Attitude</u>	<u>Attribute/Function</u>
<i>hidden in my heart (v.11)</i>	<i>longing for the law (v. 20)</i>	<i>guide for purity (v.9)</i>

Apply: Go back over the list you made above and compare your responses and attitudes toward God’s word with those of the writer of Psalm 119. Are there areas in which you wish you had the same responses or attitudes as the writer? Ask God to “open your eyes to see wonderful things in his law.” (verse 18)

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: **“Transformed by Truth”**
DAY TWO: **“I Must Accept its Authority”**

Read: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1408)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 186-187

Reflect: Think of the significant decisions you’ve made within the last month or so. What informed your decision-making process the most—culture, tradition, reason, or emotion? How much did God’s word inform your decision-making process? How much does God’s word inform/direct your daily living?

Dig: Who wrote 2 Timothy 3:14-17 this and to whom was he writing? See the heading on this section or go back to chapter 1.

What role does this passage tell us that scripture played in Timothy’s upbringing?

List 6 attributes/uses of scripture seen in this passage. (Hint: Look at more than simply verse 16.)

Go back over each one and think about the ways you have seen these specific attributes of scripture working within your life. Be as specific as possible—for example, think of a passage of scripture that has corrected you.

Apply: What “good works” (verse 17) are you going to do today? Have you allowed the word of God to equip you for this?

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: **“Transformed by Truth”**
DAY THREE: **“I Must Assimilate Its Truth”**

Read: Colossians 3:12-17 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1378)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 187 to p. 190

Reflect: Rick Warren writes “We can’t watch television for three hours, then read the Bible for three minutes and expect to grow.” (p. 188) How many hours have you spent watching TV or playing video games this past week? How many hours have you spent reading and savoring (abiding in!) God’s word? Is your faith growing or withering?

Dig: Note Colossians 3:16. List as many synonyms as you can for the word “dwell.” What does this word connote?

How can the word of Christ *dwell* within us?

What is the result of having the word dwell within us? See also Psalm 119:11 and Luke 6:45.

If the word can dwell within us, what does that say about the nature of the word? See also Hebrews 4:12 . (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1424)

Apply: Pick a verse --perhaps this will be a verse from today’s passage or maybe some other verse that has blessed/convicted/encouraged you-- to memorize and carry within you today.

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR: **“Transformed by Truth”**
DAY FOUR: **“I Must Apply its Principles”**

Read: James 1:19-27 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1441)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 191-192

Reflect: Are you more a ‘hearer of the word’ than a ‘doer of the word’? To help you assess this, list 5 biblical truths/commands that you’ve heard or read this week. How many have you done or embraced?

Dig: Note the paragraph structure of James 1:19-27 by summarizing the theme of each paragraph:

Paragraph 1 (v. 19-21)

Paragraph 2 (v. 22-25)

Paragraph 3 (v. 26-27)

What parallels do you see between paragraphs 1 and 3?

What’s the significance of linking these paragraphs with verses 22-25?

Why do you think James highlighted these particular sins or offenses as a test of how well we *do* what we read in the word? See James 3:3-12—particularly vs. 7 and 8. (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1443)

Apply: What has God already told you to do in his word that you haven’t started doing yet? Take action! Write out (and do!) the action step that Rick Warren refers to on the top of page 192. Be sure to make it personal, practical, and provable.

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DAY FIVE: **Lectio Divina**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“Humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” James 1:21b (FIC)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.