

Word of God

In Sacred Scriptures:

Is. 40: 8

The grass withers, the flower wilts, but the word of our God stands forever.

Col. 3: 16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

2 Tim. 3: 14-17

But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known [the] sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

In writings of the Church Fathers

Again, if we have been steadfast in our integrity, we gain more benefit, (if we are acquainted with the word;) for as soon as one comes to the gospel, he by a mere look both rectifies his understanding and ceases from all worldly cares. And if careful reading also follows, the soul, as if initiated in sacred mysteries, is thus purified and made better, while holding converse with God through the Scriptures.

(St. John Chrysostom- Discourse on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus: 3, 2)

We need not only to read Sacred Scripture, but learn it as well, and grow up in it. Realize that nothing is written unnecessarily. Not to read Sacred Scripture is a great evil. **(St. Basil the Great)**

When you read Sacred Scripture, read regularly, and carefully paying attention to stop at every verse, do not simply turn pages, but if need be read the verse over again, two, three or several times in order to understand its power. **(St. Ephrem the Syrian)**

When reading Sacred Scripture, do not approach it without prayer and asking God for help. Prayer is an important key so as to be able to understand Sacred Scripture properly. **(St. Isaac the Syrian)**

Not to know Sacred Scripture is not to know Jesus Christ. **(St. Jerome)**

Personal Examination of Conscience

1. Do I truly desire to know God, the truths revealed by God, and the teaching of the church? How is this desire fulfilled?
2. Do I have in my home the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church?
3. Do I dedicate a few minutes each day to the reading of the Bible, and spiritual literature?
4. Are matters of the Christian faith discussed in my home, or is this topic avoided?
5. If I am a parent – a father, or mother, do I assist my children to know God and the Christian faith? Is good Christian literature available at home for my children.