

Hearing God’s Voice in the Pages of Scripture

Session #4: The Transformation the Bible Brings

How do we read the Bible not only to know God better but also to be transformed by his authoritative word in the whole of life?

I. Readers and Authority

‘The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the **supreme authority** in all matters of belief and behaviour.’ (UCCF Doctrinal Basis)

II. Readers and Reading

1. Reading with humility
2. Reading with others
3. Reading in a spiral
4. Reading for the two horizons
5. Reading as a progressive experience
6. Reading ethically
7. Reading in context

III. Readers and Transformation

Further Reading

One book to read:

Eugene H. Peterson, *Eat This Book: The Art of Spiritual Reading* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2006).

Books on interpreting and applying the Bible:

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Journey into God’s Word: Your Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible*, 2nd edn (Zondervan, 2020).

An abridgement of a fuller work by the authors (see below), this is a very helpful book for newcomers to the area, with separate chapters covering the major types of

literature in the Bible as well as issues related to interpretation and application more generally.

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God’s Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, 4th edn (Zondervan Academic, 2020).

A recommended ‘workbook’ type of introduction to exegesis and application. Its earlier editions tended to be a little simplistic, I think, in its discussion of moving from the Bible to today, though this section of the book has been helpfully expanded in subsequent editions.

Mark L. Strauss, *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times: Understanding and Applying God’s Word Today* (Baker Books, 2011).

Books on application:

Some of the books mentioned here look at application from the perspective of the preaching task, but remain helpful even for those who are not preachers.

Murray J. Capill, *The Heart is the Target: Preaching Practical Application from Every Text* (P&R Publishing, 2014).

Gwilym Davies, *Application*, Get Preaching Series (Christian Focus, 2020).

Daniel M. Doriani, *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application* (P&R Publishing, 2001).

Michael R. Emlet, *CrossTalk: Where Life & Scripture Meet* (New Growth Press, 2009).

Chris Green, *Cutting to the Heart: Applying the Bible in Teaching and Preaching* (IVP, 2015).

Glenn R. Paauw, *Saving the Bible from Ourselves: Learning to Read and Live the Bible Well* (IVP, 2016).

Antony Billington
Word Alive 2022