

**BIBLE DOCTRINE:
WHY STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINE,
WHAT IS BIBLE DOCTRINE,
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT**

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INTRODUCTION:

The first step to studying Bible Doctrine is to have positive volition. In Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary, Page 286, under the heading "Volition":

"Refers to the ability of choice, determination, and voluntary decision making that resides within the individual and serves as authority over him.

Because the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist, every person has the freedom to express either positive or negative volition toward God, His plan, and His Word. Positive volition is an active desire for a personal relationship with God, first in salvation, through the expression of faith alone in Christ alone, and then in the post salvation willingness to learn God's Word under the authority of a prepared pastor-teacher (Proverbs 16:16; Isaiah 48:17; Ephesians 4:11-12)

The positive believer grows in grace and knowledge of the Savior, advances to spiritual maturity, and lives to glorify Christ (Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:18)"

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, the human spirit, which has been created within the believer at the moment of salvation by God the Holy Spirit, hungers to be filled. The desire has been placed within the believer by God. A new believer has a deep desire to know the Savior in a more intimate way and to learn everything they can about Him and His life.

Unfortunately, not every believer does what is required to have this desire fulfilled. They don't study the Word of God under a qualified pastor; instead, they opt for emotion and feel-good sermons with lots of music, which in times of pressure or adversity doesn't provide them anything in their souls to recall and use.

On the other side of the coin, you have the new believer who grows consistently in the spiritual life which, allows the new believer to become stronger and stronger with the capacity to handle the most difficult situations in life.

Psalm 119:16: “I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.”

The writer of Psalm 119 recalled Bible Doctrine as he was being dragged into slavery. We see in verse 24 of Psalm 119 his continued positive volition.

Psalm 119:24: “Your testimonies also are my delight; They (doctrine and testimonies) are my counselors.”

If an individual is positive to Bible Doctrine, they will have an insatiable desire, be motivated to overcome all obstacles, and center their life in doctrine. It causes the believer to stay occupied with the Word of God in time of trials, pressure, and testing. It will give them spiritual energy during these times of testing.

For believers who are not positive to studying Bible Doctrine, pressures and testing can cause them to run for cover and even quit the church completely when it provides no comfort or answers during these times of pressure and testing.

The advancing believer (those with positive volition towards Bible Doctrine) can take comfort in the Word of God stored in their soul.

Jeremiah 20:9: “But if I say, “I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,” Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it.”

Positive volition is like a burning fire, and it cannot be quenched.

Psalm 42:1: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.”

You probably wonder why some individuals are positive to Bible Doctrine and others are not?

New believers have no knowledge of God or His thoughts. The new believer who is receptive to Bible Doctrine will grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but the individual who is negative to Bible Doctrine will be indifferent and distracted, and then complain that studying Bible Doctrine is too hard, too academic, and opt for the 20 minutes on Sunday at a Disneyland mega church.

When a person is positive to Bible Doctrine, they will not be satisfied with a little but want more and more.

Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Positive volition is so important to the believer that our Lord has provided everything we need to fulfill this desire:

- 1. God provides a right Pastor-teacher for every member of the royal family who is positive to Bible Doctrine.**
- 2. He has provided the mechanics of inspiration for the formation and preservation of the canon of Scripture.**
- 3. God has a divine plan for the Church and for the Royal Family of God.**
- 4. We have the Holy Spirit inside the pre-designed plan of God, enabling us to understand the mechanics for the execution of His plan.**
- 5. God provides the privacy of the royal priesthood for the perception of the mystery doctrine of the Church Age.**
- 6. God provides the provision of 1 John 1:9 to allow us to regain fellowship with Him.**
- 7. He provides logistical grace support for every member of the royal family, which allows us equal opportunity to execute God's plan. This includes food, clothing, and shelter.**
- 8. We have Grace Doctrine Church as the classroom for us to learn His word.**

These are just some of the provisions God provides us so that we may exercise our positive volition and learn the very mind of Christ.

Proverbs 8:17: "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me."

Living in the dispensation of the Church-age we have the mystery doctrine of the Church. It had been hidden from all previous dispensations and it takes positive volition to Bible doctrine to learn this mystery doctrine.

When you have an active desire to know God you learn to appreciate the invisible work of God. The believer grows and doctrinal thinking becomes his outlook on life.

The concept of positive volition is found in Romans 14:19:

"So then, let us pursue (expresses positive volition toward that which gives us all the details regarding God's plan for our lives after salvation) what makes for peace and for building up one another."

Positive volition is not a given and never automatic. We all have the ability to become dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:11: “Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.” Vs. 12: “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

The writer of Hebrews is describing believers who at one point were anxious to learn Bible doctrine, but over time they faded away.

A positive volition believer who goes negative to the accurate teaching of the Word of God produces a believer who is dull of hearing.

They quit using rebound consistently and stop moving forward studying Bible Doctrine. In this state, believers start to seek entertainment and shallow sermons over the accurate study of God’s word under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

As Hebrews 5:12 says, They partake in the milk of the Word of God and are not mature enough to eat the meat of the Word.

We lose our focus and leave our first love.

Revelation 2:4: “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

The Bible shows us the results of the believer who continues to exercise positive volition to Bible Doctrine and continues to grow spiritually so they can eat the “meat of the Word”.

1. They continue to grow and mature. Ephesians 4:13

Ephesians 4:13: “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

2. Their strength grows in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

2 Corinthians 12:9: “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

3. They operate in love (unconditional love – our functional virtue). Colossians 3:14

Colossians 3:14: “Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

4. They don’t succumb to the temptations of life. 1 John 2:14

1 John 2:14: “I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

5. They learn patience. James 1:4

James 1:4: “And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

6. They are the ones that go on to advance doctrinally. Hebrews 6:1

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

7. They have Bible doctrine in their soul. 1 John 2:5

1 John 2:5: “But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:”

8. They strive to learn more advanced doctrine. Hebrews 5:14

Hebrews 5:14: “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

9. They put away childish things and cultivate the understanding of God’s word. 1 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Corinthians 14:20

1 Corinthians 13:11: “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.”

Positive volition gives the believer proper motivation in life.

Positive volition also leads to the believers’ spiritual growth and allows us to know the doctrines defining God’s expectations and requirements for us (The plan of God) in order to execute right actions in our life.

Things which cause our volition to go negative:

1. Family
2. Wrong priorities
3. Christian fellowship
4. Business
5. Arrogance
6. Money
7. Legalism

8. Discord among the church body
9. Hypersensitivity
10. Inability to exercise impersonal love and the royal law.
11. The lust pattern: **Power lust; Approbation lust; Monetary lust; Pleasure lust; Crusader lust; Social lust; Criminal lust; Chemical lust.**

For believers with positive volition, intake of Bible doctrine is the number one priority.

For those believers with positive volition, they develop a craving to be filled with the Word of God. Psalm 119:103, 22:26; Isaiah 55:2; Jeremiah 15:16

Jeremiah 15:16: “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

The daily or consistent study of Bible doctrine takes precedence over everything else, and no one can learn Bible doctrine without the help of a prepared pastor/teacher.

Ephesians 4:11: “And He (The Holy Spirit) gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.”

The purpose of the gift of pastor/teacher is to teach Bible doctrine so the sheep can grow to maturity. 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Jeremiah 3:15; Colossians 1:7; 1 John 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 2 Chronicles 15:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:12: “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,”

The pastor/teacher is delegated authority from God by this spiritual gift. He does not earn or deserve it. The gift is not voted on but is given at the point of salvation by God the Holy Spirit. Titus 1:5-6; Ephesians 3:7; Acts 1; 1 Timothy 1:10-16; 1 Corinthians 15:10

Ephesians 3:7: “Of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.”

The gift of pastor/teacher provided by the Holy Spirit is assigned to male believers only and is found in all kinds of personalities. Do not associate the gift of pastor/teacher with a certain kind of personality.

This pastor/teacher should be someone who is faithful in the verse-by-verse teaching of Bible doctrine, building line upon line, precept upon precept.

The proper way of teaching for the pastor/teacher is based on three principles:

1. **Isagogical**: The Bible must be interpreted within the framework of its historical setting.
2. **Categorical**: Scripture is compared with scripture to determine the classification of doctrine.
3. **Exegetical**: Each verse of scripture is analyzed to determine the exact meaning in relationship to the context as a whole, analyzing grammar, syntax and etymology.

The pastor/teacher is approved by the Bible doctrine that he teaches, not mankind.
2 Timothy 2:1-4

“Pastor” emphasizes his authority in communication; “teacher” emphasizes his function. He is to study and teach, study and teach.

2 Timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

The local church is the classroom of Christianity through face-to-face teaching. When that is not available under a qualified pastor/teacher then we have audio, video, streaming, live streaming, etc. so that you can grow in grace.

Never forget that scripture tells us to “not forsake the local assembly”. Hebrews 10:25

Hebrews 10:25: “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

The objective of assembling together is to learn Bible doctrine. But for learning to be effective, it must be accompanied by wisdom. Wisdom is the application of what you learn to life and circumstances.

The purpose of the local church is spiritual, not social; it is to learn Bible doctrine.

If you have positive volition towards the accurate study of the Word of God, you will find or be led to a qualified pastor/teacher God has chosen for you. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:3

Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

Remember, the issue is never the man but the message. Your right pastor will be someone who works very hard studying and teaching Bible doctrine, working to the point of exhaustion. 1 Timothy 4:10

1 Timothy 4:10: “For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.”

Their job is to study and teach, concentrating on learning the Word of God and teaching it to his flock (congregation) that God has given to him. This is how we grow to maturity. Ephesians 4:16

Ephesians 4:16: “From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Spiritual growth occurs in only one way: growth through the perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine.

God only uses prepared and faithful men as pastor/teachers.

The purpose of the gift of pastor/teacher is to lead the believer to spiritual maturity, to execute the protocol plan of God through faithful and consistent Bible teaching.

The gift and power of the communication of Bible doctrine is the provision of the grace of God.

God uses and promotes prepared men. If God doesn't promote you, you are not promoted.

Preaching to please people is wrong. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

2 Timothy 4:3-4: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, Vs.4: and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

The size of the congregation is irrelevant and does not indicate success or failure on the part of the pastor/teacher. God provides the hearers.

The pastor/teacher shows his love by studying Bible doctrine to feed his sheep (provided by God), not by other activities (like singles groups or counseling). His job is to teach spiritual academic information and not to engage in human viewpoint of good and evil. Colossians 1:23-29; Ephesians 3:2-13; 1 Timothy 1:6-7

PRINCIPLE: A pastor/teacher either accommodates or communicates.

A grace-oriented pastor/teacher is a prime target for Satan in the Angelic Conflict. Revelation 2:13

The pastor/teacher Epaphras, trained by Paul, is named as an example of a successful pastor/teacher who was not impressed with his achievements nor hindered by his failures. Colossians 1:7, 4:12-13

Finally, the pastor/teacher can only take you as far as your positive volition. He can give you food, but he cannot make you eat!

It is up to you to maintain your positive volition, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and convert “*gnosis*” to “*epignosis*”.

The pastor/teacher can give you knowledge, but he cannot give you wisdom.

WHAT NEXT IF YOU HAVE POSITIVE VOLITION AND FIND A PASTOR WHO TEACHES BIBLE DOCTRINE?

You must establish priorities and organize a routine.

The self-motivated believer has identified his primary objective in life: spiritual maturity, which glorifies Jesus Christ.

Every decision and course of action supports this chosen objective. Bible doctrine takes first priority.

Good decisions can only be made from a position of strength, inside the divine dynasphere. Only bad decisions can be made from a position of weakness, outside the divine dynasphere.

A self-motivated believer operating from a position of strength, builds his life on the principle of virtue first, doctrine first.

You must establish a routine: for each day to decide on what you want to accomplish that day.

You set aside time for family, time for doctrine, time for work, eating and sleeping, spending time with wife and children, and social life.

Routine must be built on priorities, ranked according to importance. If you have a good routine ranked on order of importance, you will accomplish your objectives.

Having a good routine does not make you a dull person or a nerd. Organization is just a good routine that is not broken by distractions.

You may have someone who convinced you to study Bible doctrine but that will not carry you. Without self-motivation you quit studying sooner rather than later. There is no substitute for self-motivation.

You must put the study of the Word of God first in your life. We all have distractions and things that arise that are not on our day timer.

We must be motivated from within if we hope to fulfill God’s game plan over the course of our lives.

Without positive volition, the wisest advice, the most positive encouragement will not sustain your spiritual momentum.

Self-motivation is an offshoot of humility. A humble person is receptive to truth and motivated to learn.

As you study God’s word and grow in grace you learn that you already possess tremendous blessings for which you are grateful, with great blessings yet to come, and you begin to appreciate the source.

You begin to love the Lord Jesus Christ and, within your soul, your motivation to study God’s word changes to love for God and occupation with Jesus Christ.

You are always aware of distractions which keep you from studying the Word of God, but you are not as vulnerable as when you were a new believer. You have learned to maintain your own priorities. You have learned to center your life on the treasure of highest value, the Word of God.

On the negative side, most believers never parlay their initial motivation into the daily self-motivation that can carry them through many years to spiritual maturity.

They lack the humility to accept a doctrinal pastor’s authority, or they lack the will and discipline to master doctrines that are difficult or seemingly irrelevant.

They never make a habit of learning doctrine. Instead of seeking the truth, they search for a pastor who will flatter them or a church who puts “praise” over the accurate teaching of the Word of God.

These individuals do not desire truth or a mature relationship with God; they want programs, music, and groups.

If you want to study Bible Doctrine, grow in grace, and make application of Doctrine over an extended period of time, it will allow you to keep your momentum through self-discipline.

The believer’s self-motivation will manifest itself as academic discipline under your Pastor/Teacher teaching Bible Doctrine in the local church.

1 Peter 5:6: “Therefore humble (humble: achieve genuine humility) yourselves (from self-motivation) under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you (with super grace blessings) in due time (after you reach spiritual maturity),”