

I MUST STUDY GOD'S WORD FOR ME

KING AMAZIAH

2 CHRONICLES 25:9-10

Day 22

King Ahaziah had a battle to engage in, and he was contemplating an unwise alliance with Israel (the Northern Kingdom). This was a very big decision, but there is no record that the king sought the Lord about the matter. However, a man of God approached the king & told him not to take Israel on this battle. The king obeyed the message. Good for you, oh, king.

How many times do we study the word of the Lord for someone else? Do we not study verses for courses, for sermons, for devotionals, or for counsel to a friend? In other words, many times, we read the Bible to get the material we need for an assignment, and yet do not personally apply any of it to our personal walk & circumstances. I have on several occasions heard a message on a piece of Scripture, agreed with its relevance, and then hoped that all the people in the church got the message that was directed to them. I walked away not allowing that message to impact my life & issues. I actually thought I had no need of those words; I was, after all, above that.

I have written course materials for many years; I am deeply submerged in Bible passages every single day of the week. I am writing outlines, composing questions, designing materials, and challenging students to study these passages with every intent to personalize them & use them in their growth. I can then go teach a class, using those very materials, and actually see & hear the men applying those passages personally & very effectively. Then, I can leave the class without having applied anything to my struggles; after all, I am the teacher.

I need to study God's word for me; the applying has to be for me; the readings must be aimed at me; the obedience must be done by me; the prayer time must be performed by me, and my failures & shortcomings must be confessed & faced by me. I need a good, healthy meal to make me strong before I can cook for someone else.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What do you read or study from the Bible that has nothing to do with college courses, your sermons, your devotionals, or any other activity you perform for someone else?
2. Explain what you should do with the Scripture verses that you read to ensure that they are reaching into the honest depths of where you live?

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.