

THE WORD TRAINING – SESSION 3 - PERSONALIZATION

Believe it or not – YOU CANNOT make yourself grow! Only God can do that. Many people try to make their spiritual growth happen. They do tons of stuff – read books, go to church, and even read the Bible and apply its principles to their life, but then leave God out! God can do things better, faster, and more efficiently than we can. He can do more in a day to grow an individual than we can do through our own efforts in years. Accordingly, to leave Him out of the equation is a recipe for disaster!

Scripture: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.” - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NASB)

ASSIGNMENT 1: Read the following steps of personalization, which is patterned after the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 (A.C.T.S). It is often helpful to write your prayers in a journal, booklet, or piece of paper to stay focused.

A: Adoration: Open each prayer with praise just as Jesus did in Matthew 6. Sometimes this is difficult. If you get stuck you can write this prayer using the language of the Scripture you read today or one of the Psalms. (Approx. 1 minute)

C: Confession: In this section, do not focus on how bad you are...because you are a righteous child of God! (Romans 8:16-17). Simply take personal responsibility for the thoughts, emotions, or actions that you know are unhealthy and write them down. Remember, your sins are already forgiven – confession is for you and your growth toward Christ-likeness, not because God needs it. (Approx. 1 minute)

T: Thanksgiving: Now write down a couple of things you are thankful for. These will include everything from nature to relationships. Don’t forget to thank God for the challenges you are facing – this takes focus off self. (Approx. 1 minute)

S: Supplication: Write 3-5 specific requests. Focus specifically on spiritual requests that you know align with what God wants. Examples: (1) Pray for your own spiritual growth and other people’s spiritual growth. (2) Pray for God to show you where He wants you to join Him in ministry – sharing and serving. (3) Don’t hesitate to focus on personal requests that may or may not align with what God wants – God wants to know your heart even if it does not yet align with His. However, keep His desires ahead of your desires! (Approx. 2 minutes)

ASSIGNMENT 2: This week each day document the following on the next page (Approx.10-15 Min. / day)

1. **READ THE WORD:** Get into a quiet un-interrupted space and read approximately 1-4 verses (only) of Scripture using a translation like the NASB. As you slowly read, underline any words or phrases that seem important. (Approx. 1 Min.).
2. **LISTEN FOR TRANSFORMATION:** As you read the verses for the day, listen for what God is revealing to you about your own beliefs, about your thought life, about your emotional life, and about your actions. What areas is he prompting you to work on? What Truth is He revealing to you? Write this information down. (Approx. 5 Min.)
3. **READ THE COMMENTARY:** Read the applicable verses in the commentary you chose to keep orthodox. Read slowly and methodically. Underline any words or phrases that appear important. You can use the “SampleBKC” or “SampleBECNT” links on the next page until you obtain your own commentary. (Approx. 5 Min.).
4. **LEARN THE INFORMATION:** From the steps above summarize the information you learned from reading Scripture and the commentary while listening to the Word. What new information did you learn? What questions occurred? Write this information down. (Approx. 4 Min.).
5. **TALK FOR PERSONALIZATION:** After reading the verses, listening for transformation, and reading the commentary, then talk with God for a few minutes by using A.C.T.S. on the next page (Approx. 5 Min.)

Sample Verses – (TOTAL TIME IS 15- 20 MINUTES PER DAY)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Walvoord	Gal. 3:1-5	3:6-9	3:10-13	3:14-18	3:19-22	3:23-27	3:28-29
Moo	Gal. 1:15	1:16	1:17	1:18	1:19	1:20	1:21

CONTEXT: From your commentary, document the book's overall context if you are starting a new book of the Bible. See sample from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* here: <http://bit.ly/SampleContext>

Importance: _____
 Authorship: _____
 Original Readers: _____
 Time & Place: _____
 Purpose: _____

TRANSFORMATION (Listening): 5 minutes per day. Read your daily verse then Listen to God and write what He reveals.
BELIEFS: Listen for God to reveal any unhealthy beliefs. Listen for Truth to modify your beliefs.

THOUGHTS: Listen for God to reveal any unhealthy thoughts. Listen for Truth to modify your thoughts.

EMOTIONS: Listen for God to reveal any unhealthy emotions. Listen for Truth to modify your emotions.

ACTIONS: Listen for God to reveal any unhealthy actions. Listen for Truth to modify your actions.

INFORMATION (Learning): 5-10 Minutes per day.

See sample commentary entries from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* here: <http://bit.ly/BKC-3>

See sample commentary entries from *Baker Exegetical Commentary* here: <http://bit.ly/BECNT-3>

Day 1: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 2: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 3: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 4: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 5: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 6: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

Day 7: Now read the commentary and summarize the information and questions below or in your journal.

PERSONALIZATION: (Talking): 5 minutes per day. After reading the commentary do the following:

A – ADORATION: Spend a few minutes praising God for who He is and what He is doing.

C – CONFESSION: Tell God the things you are struggling with and areas of your life that need confessed.

T – THANKSGIVING: Thank God for what He has done, your growth, your challenges etc.

S - SUPPLICATION: Ask God for those things that you know align with His will (in His Word) as well as personal items
