

READ TO SOFTEN YOUR HEART

Phil Myers

The genealogies are meant to zoom through at 60 mph. Other passages about “walking worthy,” “meditating on His Word,” and “exhorting one another” are designed to be read at crawl-speed as though you were down on your hands and knees with a bright light and a magnifying glass, examining each word and scrutinizing each corner of your heart.

The factual details of the tabernacle assembly can be exhilarating. Go ahead and enjoy the buzz of all the symbolism and the excitement God must have felt watching them cover everything with gold, and set up the Tab 42 times all over the wilderness before reaching Jericho. But be sure to take to heart the Psalms that pierce your soul, convicting you of sin. Keep your ears open to the Holy Spirit’s whisperings in your ear as you read over thirty [30] times about the lost being brought to Christ in the book of Acts. –Hey! These are the same kinds of people in your neighborhood. They might be your cousins. You rub shoulders with them every day: policemen (Acts 16), business women (Lydia), self-styled philosophers where you work (Athens), seekers who don’t go to church (Cornelius), and even Wicca followers in Ephesus (Acts 19). Your neighbors can be saved, too.

If you ever found yourself looking at your watch to see how many more minutes you have to sit reading your Bible, your “Quiet Time” may have turned into a punch-the-clock-with-God time and it’s time for an overhaul.

If there’s a practical way to revive your reading, tomorrow start with enough prayer—FIRST! Don’t open your Bible at all until you’ve sat there and prayed until you’re eager to read. Psss-s-t, maybe tomorrow you won’t even get to the reading part. You may just sit there in God’s lap and let Him hug you. It’s actually a great way to start a day. *Before you have to run off and start checking off the things on your “To Do” list.*

The next morning you might even grab your Bible and sit in your favorite chair 15 minutes earlier so you don’t cheat yourself out of the Bible reading part.