



READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT
2017 Bible Reading
by Pastor Mike Barris

Jesus tells a parable of a farmer sowing seed on different kinds of soil. In explaining the parable, he says the seed is the word of God and the soil represents the receptivity and responsiveness of those who hear the word. The seed falling on good soil stands for *"those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."* In other words, as you take God's Word into your heart and faithfully live it out, you flourish and your life grows in fruitfulness.

This is why I believe it is important for every follower of Jesus to read God's Word on a daily basis. This year, I want to focus on reading for *depth* and not for *distance*. As you read just a chapter per day (easily done in 5 minutes), you are encouraged to take a greater amount of time allowing your heart and mind to be the good soil in which God's Word takes root.

The 2017 Bible readings take a different approach to reading God's word than previous years. From the whole Bible, I have selected 365 chapters that I believe God wants to use to strengthen you in your faith and life. I have grouped the readings by book of the Bible so that the flow of the book is retained even though other chapters are skipped. Further, readings cycle through the New Testament, Old Testament, and Wisdom literature several times so that the unity of the Bible can be appreciated. Lastly, the four Gospels are interspersed through the year so that the story of Jesus remains at the center of our reading.

As you read:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and wisdom as you read. Take your time - remember, its depth not speed you are after. Underline or highlight key words or phrases.

- Note the context - who, what, why, when, where, how - and ask questions like "How can my life be changed by the truth of this passage?" or, "What is welling up in my soul as a result of this text (assurance, conviction, encouragement)?"
- Note key principles, promises of God, or life lesson takeaways. Linger on any phrase or sentence that stands out to you. And this is key, be open and invite the Word to do its transforming work in you through your discoveries.
- Finally, thank God for what you received through the text. Tell him what you learned and how you desire to live as a result. Ask that his word be made alive in you.

Here are the readings for the month of January:

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Matt. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Gen. 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Matt. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Gen. 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Matt. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Gen. 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Matt. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Gen. 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Matt. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Gen. 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Matt. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Gen. 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Matt. 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Gen. 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Matt. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Gen. 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Matt. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Gen. 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Matt. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Gen. 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Matt. 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Gen. 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Matt. 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Gen. 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Matt. 26	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Gen. 13
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Matt. 27	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Gen. 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Matt. 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Gen. 15
			<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Gen. 16

May God richly bless you and cause you to flourish as you enjoy His Word.

Pastor Mike

*"Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
 or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
 and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers." Psalm 1:1-3*