

**ABI**ble**DE**

Joy! Church | 3-3-24  
We love you. Yes, you

## The Word...

- **did not** become a belief, a conviction, a feeling, a spirituality, a concept, a philosophy, a moral code, a religion, a set of principles, an encyclopedia, a volume of answers, a world view, an owner's manual for humans, a political platform, a creed, a code, a group, a candidate, a cause, a dividing line, an experience, an organization, any "ism", any "ology", or even a book!
  - became flesh—a man-God, the walking, talking, living expression of God, **and dwells among us.**
- ...Jesus the Christ**

(Jn 1:14; Heb 4:14-16)

## Jesus said

*Just do it...*

### • **Follow Me**

(*>100 times & ways*)

- Make Me, and not your works, your First Love *(Rev 2:4-6)*
- **Seek first** My ruling presence, and My righteousness *(Mat 6:33)*
- Abide in Me. The main thing? Be a branch *(Jn Ch.'s 14-16)*
- Love others the same way I do *(Jn 13:34-35)*
- My Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you *(Jn 14:26)*
- **Go! Make disciples!** *(Mat 28:19-20)*

## Translations & other resources

- Highly accurate and most current (in JP's opinion): ESV, NRSV, NIV
- Very good, accurate, easier to read: NLT, CEV, GWT
- Great alternatives, interpretive, helpful: MSG, TPT
- Also common among churches, denominations and teachers: NKJV, KJV, AMP
- Recommended digital resources: YouVersion, Bible Gateway (especially subscriber version), Logos software, Wikipedia (for now...)
- What bible translation do we recommend most highly?  
**Whichever one in which you are fully engaged at any given time!**

# Bible potency, descending order

1. Read. Aloud. Write. Ask. Discuss.
2. Read. Write. Ask. Discuss.
3. Read. Write. Ask.
4. Read. Write.
5. Read.
6. Listen. Write. Ask. Discuss.
7. Listen. Write. Ask.
8. Listen. Write.
9. Listen.

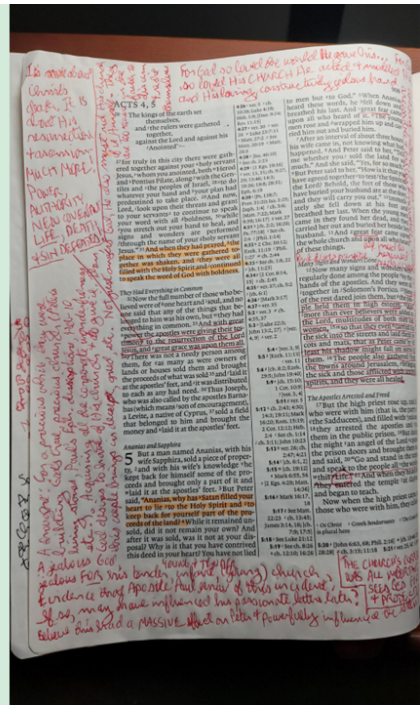
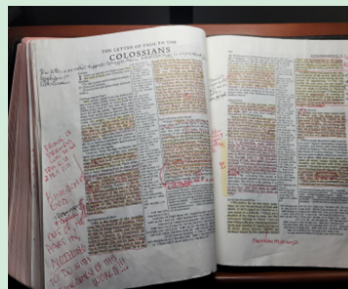
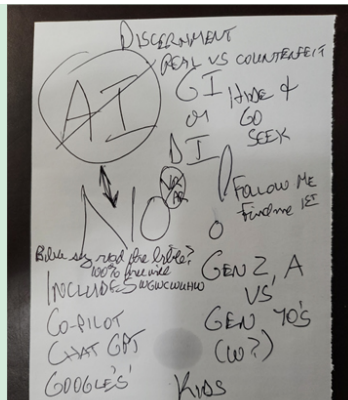
No rigid rules  
No competition  
No comparison  
No shame

Any combination  
Any effort  
Anytime  
IS GREAT

Just do it...

Just do it...

- Your way is fine
- With Holy Spirit, build your own personal practice



## Suggested, DO:

- Establish appointed time(s) and place(s) to engage with scripture
- Establish a practice & dedicate a method to record as you engage
  - You will likely find handwriting in a journal or notebook best, over time
- Pray, thank, praise, open yourself to receive
- Invite Holy Spirit to join, guide, lead, speak, teach
- Just read. Study is good too but it's a different thing
  - Commentaries are not gospel. OK to ignore headings, and breaks in chapter and verse numbers
- Engage with care. Slow is better; chew thoroughly
- Remember, questions are more important than answers
  - You're trying to RENEW your mind, not fill up or satisfy your current one
- Set as your background key questions (see later slide)

## All-important, ever-present quest of discovery

### **Lifelong, overarching, constant:**

- What is God REALLY like (His character, nature, etc.)?
- What does God REALLY think of me?

### **For bible engagement:**

- How do these verses reveal, illuminate, clarify, amplify Jesus?
- What is the story here?
- Why is it important?
- What is my part?





## How to give

- Generously, like God does
- With a smile in your heart (and on your face 😊)
- By text: 84321
- On-line: [www.joychurch.life](http://www.joychurch.life)
- Via the ChurchCenter app
- By mail: Joy! Church  
4120 US Hiway 50E  
Fernley NV 89408

A black and white photograph of a person from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt with some text on the back. The background is a bright, hazy sky with a dark treeline at the bottom.

Save the date!  
**BAPTISMS**  
and family fun swim  
3/30/24, 4:00-6:00 pm  
Easter Saturday  
Fernley Pool