**Divine Reading of the Bible**

Our education system teaches us that the goal of reading is to gather information, learn knowledge, master its application, and demonstrate our comprehension through life applications. This system prepares us to live in the world. Divine Reading equips Disciples of Christ to actively participate in God’s will and thereby reflect heaven on earth. Divine Reading teaches us to:

* **Read** the Bible to Hear God, not to form our opinion or listen to our neighbor’s. (Read at least three different translations.)
* **Listen** for a word or phrase that captures your thinking and or feeling. The word(s) are God’s gift to us. Please, write down the Word(s) you hear. The word(s) you hear comes directly from the reading.
* **Ask** God what the Word(s) mean for your life. **(Prayer)** What memories does God’s Word bring to your heart-feelings and mind-thinking. (Jesus says, “Ask and you shall receive.” We ask God questions about the Word we receive. God’s answers have far more value than all our opinions.)
* **Receive** God’s wisdom. **(Contemplation.)**  Ask, “What must I change about my heart-feelings and or mind-thinking to receive God’s word?” Equipped with God’s Word and God’s answers Jesus instructs us to, “Seek and you shall find.”
	+ - We find what God would have us confess.  **Confession** simply states our mind-thinking and heart-feeling that must change to do God’s will with our lives.
		- We find what God would have us **Repent**. To repent simply means to align our heart-feelings and mind-thinking with God’s.
		- We discover the freedom of receiving God’s **Forgiveness**. Forgiveness frees us from the power of shame, guilt, and blame. Anger, wrath, divisions, gossip and the like are replaced with empathy, compassion, generosity, not insisting on our way.
* **Amen** means to let all of the above be so with our mind-thoughts, heart-feelings, and Soul-Actions. Jesus says, “Knock and the door shall be opened to you.” I understand this “door” opens into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is in hearts, souls, and minds.
* **Worship** is a natural response to hearing, seeing, and experiencing God with us, in us, and flowing through us. Such personal and private worship prepares us to come to our corporate Sunday morning Worship Services fully fed, nourished, and filled with Praise and Thanksgiving.

**Divine Reading Journal**

**Read**: Text\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Listen**: List the Word(s) that capture my attention. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ask**: Describe your heart - feelings and mind - thinking evokes by God’s Word(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Receive**: Ask, “What must I change about my heart-feelings and or mind-thinking to receive God’s word?”

Since I trust God’s Word(s) I will Confess \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Since I trust God’s Word(s) I will Repent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Since I trust God’s Word(s) I will Forgive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Amen:** Father, I thank you for welcoming me into Your Holy Presence. Lead me now by the power of Your Holy Spirit to let \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be revealed through my heart-feelings, mind-thinking, and soul-actions.

**Worship:** Father, now that I have experienced the above transform my life I give you thanks for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Caution: Be patient with yourself and God. God is with you to take the journey of life. The above is never intended to be a task or goal; for such is the way of the world. Jesus came to teach us how to reflect God’s image. We worship the Father each moment we reflect God’s image. Worship teaches us the way of Life-Eternal!***