

# 1 & 2 Peter

10 Days

Enhanced Bible Reading Guide



DEEP ROOTED *Daily*



Kathy Howard

# Get Ready to Grow

God has revealed Himself, His ways, and purposes to us in the Bible. If we want to know Him more fully and please Him with our lives, we must plant ourselves in His Word. Then, as our spiritual roots grow deep in Scripture, we will become healthy, vibrant, and fruitful disciples.

However, many Christians lack confidence when it comes to handling Scripture. We aren't sure where to read, how to understand what we read, or how to apply it. There are many devotionals and Bible studies available that will do much of the work for us. But there's no substitute for going to the Word for ourselves.

This resource is not a devotional or Bible study. It is an expanded Bible reading plan with questions and prompts designed to guide you to understand and apply what you read. Some readings have brief commentary that shares helpful information.

This *Deep Rooted Daily Enhanced Bible Reading Guide* provides a framework to help you read and study the Bible on your own. It is formatted around the 4 R Bible study method, which is an inductive study method simple enough to use every day. Each day you will **Read** the passage, **Record** your observations, **Reflect** on the meaning, and finally **Respond** to God's Word.

*Note: You will find more information about the 4 R Bible study method at the end of this guide that can help you take your daily reading to the next level.*

May God produce fruit in your life from your time in His Word!

Kathy





## How to Use This Guide

- **Gather your tools** – The only thing you must have is a Bible. (If you only use one translation, a word-for-word translation like the ESV, RSV, or NASB is best for study.) You may also want highlighters to observe the text, a pen to write with, and a journal or notebook to write in if you're using a digital version of this guide.
- **Read the introduction to the book** – Knowing the background of a Bible book greatly aids correct understanding of the book itself. The introduction – included in this guide – shares pertinent information like author, audience, setting, and purpose of the Bible book.
- **Read the daily Bible passage** – Before you read any of the commentary or questions, read the Bible text. If you have time, read it in more than one translation to enhance your understanding.
- **Read any commentary and answer the questions** – If you want to deepen your study beyond what's provided in the guide, see the “4 R Bible Study Method” appendix in the back for suggestions.



# Introduction to Peter



## Introduction

The apostle Peter, leader of the early church and martyr for Christ, is generally accepted to be the author of the Bible books we know as 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Although these are the only books we have written by Peter, it is also generally accepted that the Gospel of Mark was Peter's eyewitness account of Jesus as told to Mark.

### 1 Peter:

Peter claims authorship of this letter in 1:1. We are also told in 5:12 that Silas is with Peter and has contributed to the letter. Although not specifically specified, scholars believe Peter wrote this letter from Rome, which he refers to with the codename "Babylon" in 5:13. It was likely written around 62-64 BC, prior to Nero's persecution of Christians. He addresses this letter to "God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia." This letter then was a circular letter for believers in northern Asia (modern Turkey). First Peter is full of warm, pastoral care and encouragement. Peter's readers live in a society that does not accept the true God, so the believers suffer antagonism and persecution. Peter wrote to help them see their sufferings in light of eternity and to persevere.

### 2 Peter:

We have less information about the particulars of 2 Peter. Peter does not include the specific recipients as he did in 1 Peter. Some scholars believe that since Peter says in 3:1 that this is his "second letter," that the recipients are the same as 1 Peter. The best, educated guess about origin and date, is that Peter wrote the letter from Rome around 64-68 BC. The primary reason Peter wrote this letter seems to be that his readers were facing challenges to their faith – like false teachers (2:1) and perseverance in God's calling & spiritual growth (1:5-10). To encourage them, Peter wrote to declare the truth of the Gospel (1:16) and to remind them to stand firm in these truths (1:12).

These two letters are so relevant for our lives today! I can't wait to dig in with you!

## DAY ONE



### READ: 1 PETER 1:1-12

From the introduction we learned that Peter's audience were likely Christians - probably many originally from Jerusalem - that had fled from persecution to cities in what is now modern-day Turkey. As you read today's passage keep this fact in mind. Think about how Peter's readers would be feeling. Contemplate how what he wrote would have encouraged, comforted, and challenged them.

*List all the facts you see in this passage. Include things like who wrote the letter, to whom it was written and where they lived.*

*Make a list of all the specific actions God accomplished/carried out in their - and our - salvation.*

*According to verse 3, what was God's motivation in extending salvation?*

*Make a list of all the characteristics Peter gave of our eternal inheritance. (vs 4)*

*What is God doing for us while we wait for our eternal inheritance?*

*How did God use the prophets in the readers' - and our - salvation*

### REFLECT:

*In what way do you see the trinitarian nature of God reflected in this passage?*



*According to verse 2, what role does each member of the God-head have in our salvation?*

*Write a summary statement about our salvation in just 1-2 sentences. Include who initiates it and how is it accomplished?*

*Summarize the involvement of the Holy Spirit in our salvation.*

**RESPOND:**

*If you're in the midst of a trial right now, how do you see God working in it and through it to either refine your faith, test the genuineness of your faith, or to bring glory to Christ?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## DAY TWO

### **READ: 1 PETER 1:13-25**

Verse 13 begins with "therefore," pointing us back to what Peter wrote above about our great salvation. Although we have nothing to do with our salvation - it is initiated by God and accomplished by God - we do have responsibility to respond appropriately to such a great and gracious work of God.

### **RECORD:**

*Use the whole passage to make a list of all the imperatives or commands Peter gave.*

*Why should believers live holy lives? What is the basis?*

*What did our salvation cost? (See verses 18-19.)*

*Make a list of all the facts/characteristics you see in this passage about Christ's salvation.*

*According to verse 22, what should be one of the natural results of our salvation?*

**REFLECT:**

*Write a summary statement expressing the correct response to God's salvation in our lives.*

*What do you learn about God and His character from this passage?*

*What can we do to foster obedience in our lives? (See verse 18.)*

**RESPOND:**

*Our natural selves will perish, but we can have eternal life through the Gospel/Word of God. This is the life-giving message of Christ. Reflect on this glorious truth today then express your gratitude to God in writing below.*

*Compare your life to the list of commands you made. Are there any changes you need to make?*

## DAY THREE



### **READ: 1 Peter 2:1-12**

The "so" that begins verse 1 reminds us that today's passage points back to what we read yesterday about salvation. "Because God saved us..." In today's passage that "so" includes ways we should live as well as what God accomplished in our lives through His salvation.

### **RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight the keyword "stone" and its variations throughout the passage.*

*Make a list of all the commands you see in this passage.*

*Make a list of all the descriptions you see of the results of God's salvation in our lives.*

*Describe the contrast Peter made between those who accept the Cornerstone and those who reject Him. What differences do you see?*

*Look for the comparison Peter made between Jesus the Cornerstone and believers, the "living stones." What similarities do you see?*



## DAY THREE

### REFLECT:

*Summarize what the word picture of Christ as the cornerstone teaches us about Him?*

*What will be the result if we obey the commands you listed above? What are the “so thats?”*

*What will be the ultimate outcome for those who reject the Cornerstone? For those who accept Him?*

*What do the responsibilities of a “priest” look like for a believer in the world today?*

### RESPOND:

*What can you do today to fulfill your duties as a priest of God?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 1 PETER 2:13-25**

This passage is packed with practical application for our lives today. How should believers live in today's world? Because of who we are in Christ, because of the fact that we represent God in the world, He calls us to live differently than the world. It is not always easy, but righteous living honors God. Watch for the running theme in this passage of the suffering of the believer.

### **RECORD:**

*Make a list of all the commands you see in this passage.*

*Make a list of all the facts you see in this passage about suffering in believers' lives.*

*List all the facts about Jesus you see in this passage.*

### **REFLECT:**

*Why should Christians obey all authorities? (See verse 15 to help you formulate this principle.)*



## DAY FOUR

*How does God use suffering in His children's lives? Why is suffering a part of His plan?*

*It is also God's will that we endure unjust suffering. Why? What is the result?*

*In what way is Jesus our example for suffering?*

*According to verse 24, what is one reason Jesus died for us? How does this truth support God's commands here for righteous living?*

*Note: There are limits to obeying human authority. If any laws, commands directly contradict God's law, we are to obey God rather than man. (See Peter and John's example for us in Acts 5:29.)*

### **REFLECT:**

*Do you struggle to obey any of the commands in this passage?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY FIVE



### READ: 1 PETER 3:1-22

Today's passage is both full and challenging! Peter continued his discussion from chapter 2 about how believers are to conduct themselves with others. Verse 1 begins with a "likewise." In the passage we read yesterday, Peter wrote about other relationships where one has authority over the other. See citizen/government (2:13) and slave/master (2:18). Here Peter turns to the marriage relationship. I have included some notes to help us consider the cultural context of the wife/husband relationship.

1. The Greek word translated as "subject" or "submit" in verse 1 is a military term that means "to rank under." The term means a voluntary submission. God has established an orderly hierarchy for marriage. The husband is to be the head and wives are to show respect for the husband's God-given leadership. This role does not make the husband superior or give him the right to treat the wife poorly.

2. We must also consider the culture of the time in which this letter was written. Women had little to no legal status. In the Roman society, women were expected to obey their husbands. Husbands had all the "power." Although in Christ all are equal, Peter encouraged women not to exercise their freedom in a way that would hinder the gospel or the opportunity for their unbelieving husbands to accept Christ.

3. In the ancient Roman culture, wealthy women flaunted their status with outward adornment. It was prideful and a call for others to look at them. This is the type of outward adornment Peter wrote against. Women are to put primary importance on their character and not their physical appearance. However, this is not a command against outward adornment.

4. The Greek word translated "honor" in verse 7 teaches us that husbands are to recognize their wife's worth and treat her with value. They are also to seek to understand her and her needs.



There is no consensus among scholars on how best to understand 1 Peter 3:18-22. However, one possibility is that after Jesus' death He proclaimed His victory over sin to the fallen angels who had rebelled against God. The Greek word in verse 19 is "proclaim" or "announce." Peter did NOT use the word for evangelize. The flood is a picture of God's judgment and baptism is a picture of our salvation. Baptism itself does not save, but the forgiveness of sin that it pictures does.

**RECORD:**

*Highlight or underline the key word bless/blessing and its forms.*

*Make a list of all the commands you see in this passage.*

*What two things do you see in this passage that result in God's blessing?*

*Make a list of all the ways believers should respond to unjust persecution/suffering.*

*What does the ark of the Old Testament represent?*

**REFLECT:**

*In what way does the believer's suffering reflect Christ's suffering?*

*What should a woman's priority be?*



*Summarize how a husband's ill treatment of his wife will impact his relationship with God?*

*Summarize how believing wives should treat unbelieving husbands and why.*

*What is one way God uses suffering in the lives of His children?*

*What do you learn about God/Jesus in this passage? (See verses 12, 22.)*

**RESPOND:**

*Are you prepared to share Christ when God gives opportunities? If not, what do you need to do to prepare yourself?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 1 PETER 4:1-19**

The theme of Christian suffering continues in this chapter. Although many of the principles can be applied to the trials and difficulties everyone faces, Peter specifically wrote about the suffering and persecution that believers face because they follow Jesus.

Verse 1-2 does not imply that believers who suffer for Jesus will reach a point of sinlessness. Instead Peter meant that a willingness to suffer for Jesus shows that we have put following Jesus ahead of our desire for comfort and fleshly pleasure.

Without context, verse 6 can be confusing. Christians in the first century believed Jesus' return was imminent so as Christians from that first generation began to die and Christ had not yet returned there were questions. (Paul also addressed this issue in one of his letters.) Peter is merely assuring his readers that physical death doesn't change the effect of the gospel. That's why they must continue to share the Gospel with all. In verse 7, Peter encouraged them to continue to live like Christ's return is imminent - because it is!

### **RECORD:**

*Make a list of all the commands you see in today's passage. Note any reasons/outcomes you see beside or under the relevant command.*

*List all the attitudes and actions Peter encourages believers to have toward suffering.*

*What might believers who come to Christ as adults experience from friends they had before their salvation?*

**REFLECT:**

*Write a summary statement about how believers should feel about and approach suffering for the name of Christ.*

*Why did Peter hold Jesus up as an example of suffering? What attitude are we to copy? What attitude or way of thinking made Jesus willing to go to the cross?*

*Why should the fact of Jesus' return impact our actions and attitudes? (See verses 7-11).*

*According to verses 12-18, how does suffering for Christ bring us blessing and joy?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does your attitude toward suffering match up to Jesus'? Can you say you value the eternal and spiritual over the material and physical?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 1 PETER 5:1-14**

You finish Peter's first letter today! I hope you have been encouraged. We will jump right into 2 Peter tomorrow. As Peter wraps up his letter he gives some closing instructions to the elders, the young, and to all. Here Peter emphasizes standing firm in our faith, no matter our circumstances, by keeping our eyes on Jesus and the eternity we will share with Him

### **RECORD:**

*Make a list of all the ways Peter describes himself.*

*What commands did Peter give the church elders?*

*What commands did Peter give younger believers?*

*What commands did Peter give all believers?*

*Underline or mark every statement of Peter's that encourages us to keep an eternal mindset.*

*What commands did Peter give specifically regarding Satan?*



*What facts do you learn in verses 12-13 about where Peter was when he wrote and who was with him?*

*How did Peter summarize his purpose in writing to them in verse 12?*

**RECORD:**

*Based on the commands to the elders, what is the proper attitude for church leadership?*

*Summarize what it means to live with an eternal perspective.*

*What does Peter's description of Satan – "roaring lion" – teach us about how Satan works?  
What is his goal?*

*What truths do you see in this passage that will help us stand firm to the end?*

*In 5:1-11, Peter mentions a couple of times that full blessings and relief may not come until eternity. (See verses 4 & 10.) How does this truth tie back in with the truths about our eternal inheritance in 1:4-5?*



**RESPOND:**

*How does the truth that God cares about you and all your worries and needs - found in verse 7 - impact you today?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 2 PETER 1:1-21**

You begin Peter's second letter today. If you missed it, go back and read the introduction to 2 Peter at the beginning of this guide. Peter wrote this letter near the end of his life, probably from Rome, likely to the same recipients as the first letter. (See 2 Peter 1:14.)

In verses 16-18, Peter refers to his experience with James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. This was not only a key event in Peter's life, but also important for the spread of the Gospel.

### **RECORD:**

*What facts/truths do you see in this passage about our salvation?*

*What incredible truth for our lives today do you see in verse 3?*

*Peter knew his physical life was nearing its end. But he was not merely sitting back and waiting to be with Jesus. According to verses 12-14, what were Peter's priorities to accomplish before Jesus took him home?*

*Make a list of all the things you see in this passage that Peter wanted to make sure his readers knew and remembered before he died.*

*How did God use the experience of the transfiguration in Peter's life?*



*How did God use Peter's testimony to help spread the gospel?*

*What facts do you learn about Scripture?*

**REFLECT:**

*According to verse 3, how do we access the power God has for us?*

*What does spiritual growth in our lives confirm?*

*What will be the result of spiritual growth in our lives?*

*Summarize what it means that Scripture is "inspired."*

**RESPOND:**

*What are you purposefully doing to foster spiritual growth in your own life?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 2 PETER 2:1-22**

Yesterday's passage ended with Peter's "definition" of Scripture. It is not something made up by man, but instead given by God to man through the Holy Spirit. In contrast, in chapter 2, Peter begins a lengthy discussion about false teachers. Peter's writing shows just how serious it is to mishandle God's Word - particularly if we deliberately twist it for selfish and sinful motives.

There is a lot of scholarly discussion on the identity of the "glorious ones" in verse 10. Many commentators believe that the "glorious ones" mentioned in verse 10-12 refers to fallen angels. The mention of fallen angels in verse 4 adds weight to this view. If that's the case, the false teachers did not take Satan, demons, and evil seriously. In their ignorance they scoffed them, stepping into dangerous territory, playing with dark spiritual powers.

Peter called these false teachers "slaves of corruption." They had heard the truth of the gospel, but then decisively rejected it (vs 20). They may have even been "members" of the church for a time. But having heard the gospel and even being superficially connected to the church doesn't make them true believers. In the end, they rejected Jesus. Their fate will be worse because they knew the truth and turned away from it.

## **RECORD:**

*Use the whole passage to make a list of characteristics of the false teachers.*

*What are the motives of false teachers? What do they hope to gain?*

*What examples of God's justice did Peter give in verses 4-8?*

*What contrast do you see in these same verses?*

*What will be the end result for false teachers?*

**REFLECT:**

*What did Peter want us to learn about God from the examples of justice he gave? (See verse 9.)*

*What principle did Peter want us to learn about false teachers from the two word pictures he gave in verse 17?*

*What spiritual truth did Peter teach in verse 19?*

*What are some of the possible results on the church and believers of the activity of false teachers?*

**RESPOND:**

*What can - and should - you do to test the "teaching" you hear and to make sure you are standing firm on the truth of God's Word?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*



## **READ: 2 PETER 3:1-18**

Information in verse supports the assumption that the recipients of 2 Peter were the same as 1 Peter.

In chapter 1, we learned that Peter knew the end of his life was near. Here in chapter 3 we see that knowledge come through again. He reminds them of important things he doesn't want them to forget and again encourages them to stand firm.

### **RECORD:**

*What purpose for writing did Peter give? Why did he feel the need to remind them of these things?*

*What would "scoffers" attempt to do?*

*Make a list of all the commands you see in this passage.*

*Make a list of the ways God has proven He will act in the world.*

*How did Peter describe judgment day?*

*What will the "ignorant and unstable" try to do to God's Word?*

**REFLECT:**

*Write a 2-3 sentence summary statement about why we need to know God's Word.*

*Summarize what you learned about God from this passage.*

*What does the delay of Jesus' return show?*

*Describe how we should live in light of God's sure judgment.*

**RESPOND:**

*In light of Jesus' sure return, what in your life needs to change?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

*What are your big takeaways from 2 Peter?*

## 4 R Bible Study Method



The 4 R Bible study method is a basic way to dig a little deeper into any biblical passage. This “inductive” method uses careful observation (record) to discover what the passage says. We start with observation, so we can more accurately interpret (reflect) God’s meaning. Personal application (respond) is our last step and end goal. You don’t need extra tools or resources. All you need is your Bible, a pen, a notebook or journal, and a humble, teachable attitude. The “R” repetition makes it memorable! You can take it anywhere!

**1. Read** - A reading plan will help with consistency and context. Choose one that is manageable with the time you have.

- Read prayerfully – Ask God to give you understanding and to help you be willing to apply His truth.
- Read multiple times – It’s easy to miss details and even deep truth with just one reading.
- Read in different translations - Reading in different translations will increase understanding.

**2. Record** (observation) - Before we can understand what a passage means we must know what it says. Our goal in this step is to carefully observe the passage and record what we find. See the next resource in this booklet: “10 Things to Observe in a Bible Passage” for specific help.

**3. Reflect** (Interpretation) – Look back over your recorded observations to help you understand God’s original meaning of the passage. Now identify the spiritual truths and principles. These will be eternal and timeless, relevant for all God’s people at any place in history and in every culture. Here are a few things to consider in this process:



## 4 R Bible Study Method

- Literary Genre – The specific literary style of a Bible book impacts how we should understand it.
- Literary Context - Keep each verse and passage within the context of the surrounding text and even the whole book.
- Historical/Cultural Context – Things like historical events, world powers, dominant religions, and cultural mores and practices all shaped the way the original audience understood.
- Meta–Narrative – All the individual books and stories of the Bible join together to tell us one big story: The rule, reign, and redemptive purposes of God. Ask, where does this passage fit in the Big Story?

**4. Respond** (application) - Knowledge of God's Word is never the end game. Application that leads to spiritual transformation is always our goal. So, once we've read and understood, let's ask God to show us how to apply these truths to our lives. God tells us some of the ways He wants to use His Word in our lives. In the following passage we see four broad categories for life application:

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV*

- Teaching (doctrine) – Correct our thinking. God wants us to hold correct beliefs about Him, salvation, His church, and His kingdom. Correct thinking leads to correct behavior.
- Reproof (rebuke) – Repent of any sin in our lives. God's Word reveals what's wrong and call us to stop wrong behavior.
- Correction (obedience) – God's Word also instills right behavior by giving us commands and principles to follow.
- Training (spiritual growth) – God uses Scripture to shape our character and underlying attitudes.

*For more on solid Bible study methods, visit [www.KathyHoward.org](http://www.KathyHoward.org)*

## Observation Tips



The goal of the RECORD (observation) step of Bible study is to discover what the passage says. As you read any Bible passage act like an investigative journalist. The list of observation tips below is not exhaustive, but it is a solid place to start. Record what you see in this Bible study resource, a notebook, or margin of your Bible. You won't spot everything in every passage. But in every passage your observation will help you do better Bible study.

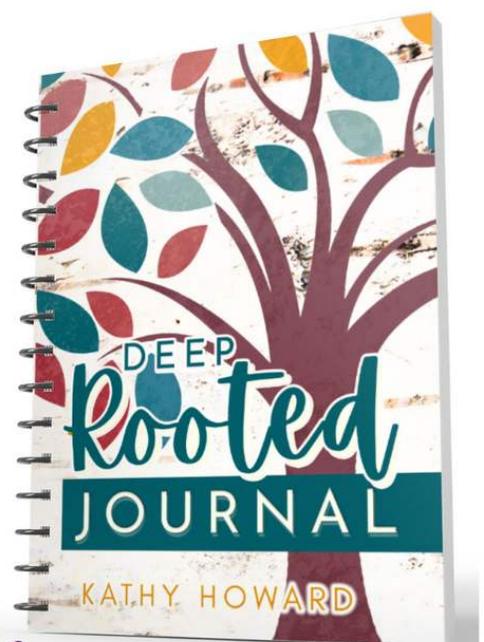
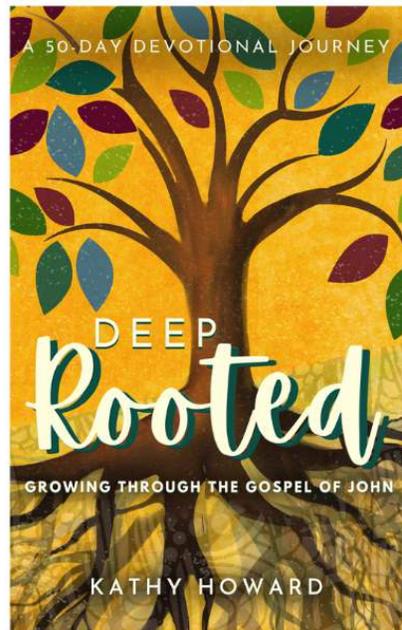
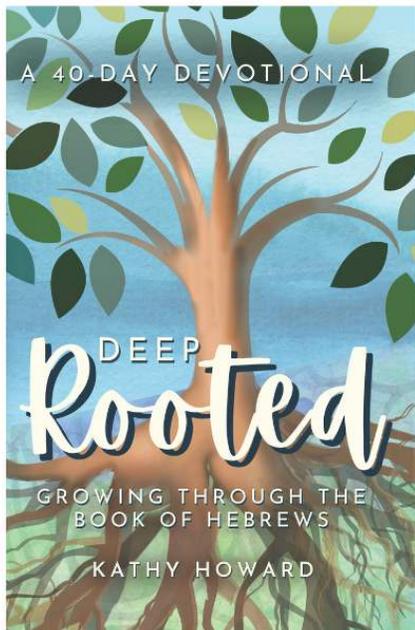
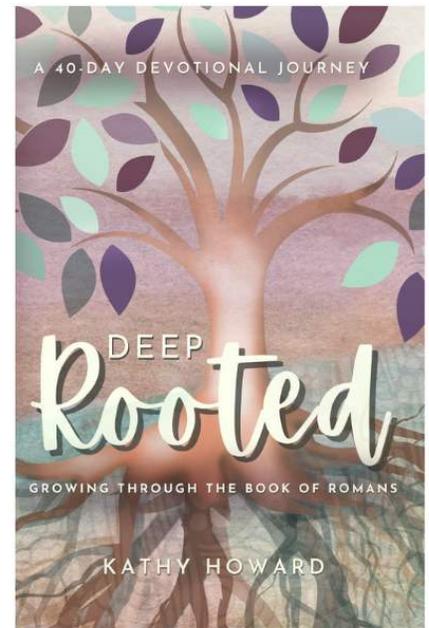
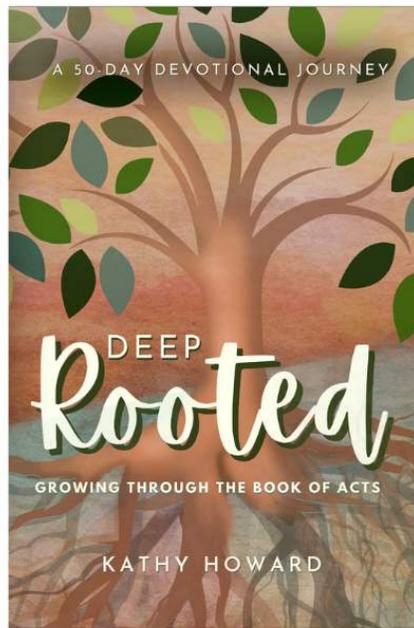
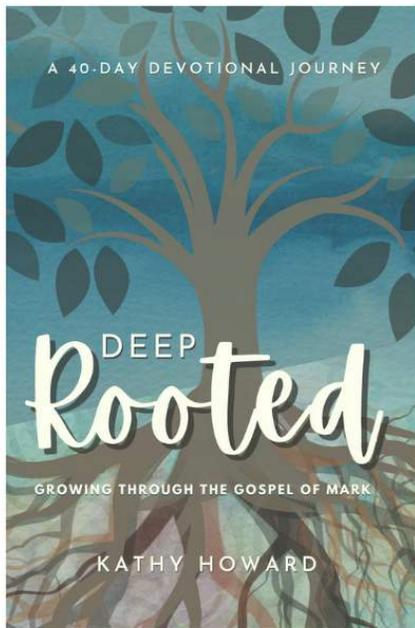
1. Truths about God– The Bible is first and foremost a book about God. He is in every passage, on every page. It may be blatant or subtle, but He will be there. Look for truths about His nature, His character, His ways, and His purposes.
2. Key Words & Phrases– Repetition in God's Word is not accidental. If you see words and phrases repeated, take note. God is trying to point to something important.
3. Important facts – Mark any facts you see in the passage that will help you understand what's happening. Things like people, places, numbers can be key to comprehension.
4. Connecting or Transition Words – Words like “now, because, therefore, so, since, but” show a relationship, an explanation, or a cause and effect. When you see a connecting word, determine its purpose for being there.
5. Questions and answers – We find this powerful teaching tool throughout the Bible. Jesus often asked questions and then fleshed out His answer (see Matthew 6:25-34). The apostle Paul also used questions and answers in his letters (see Romans 6:1-14). When you see a question in Scripture, be sure to look for the answer.
6. Commands – The Bible is full of commands. Some are one-time commands for specific individuals at a specific time. Others are for all God's people for all time. For instance, “love one another” is applicable to us today!
7. Lists – Watch for lists and groups that will help you understand a spiritual truth or topic. Mark things like characteristics, qualities, and reasons.
8. Spiritual principles– Eternal principles impact our daily lives. These may be explicit or implicit in the text.
9. Contrasts and comparisons – The Bible often compares and contrasts to show how people or things are alike or different. These literary tools can more clearly show the reader the way that pleases God.
10. Word pictures – Similes and metaphors paints pictures that help us better understand spiritual truths. For instance, Jesus' description of Himself as “the true vine” in John 15 helps us understand what it means to constantly abide in Him.

*For more on solid Bible study methods, visit [www.KathyHoward.org](http://www.KathyHoward.org)*

# DEEP ROOTED *Devotionals*



By Kathy Howard



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