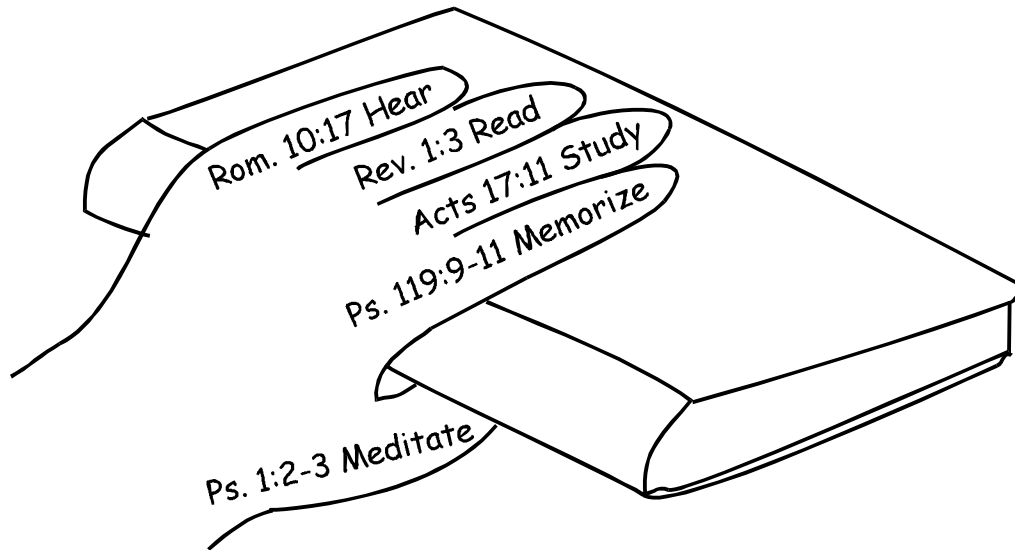


# Using the Word Hand Illustration



As you can see, there are five ways to get a firm grasp on God's Word: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating. Trace your hand outline on your sheet of paper and draw a Bible in your hand's grasp. Then, label each finger appropriately. Go through the fingers one by one and look up the Scripture verse that back up each method of grasping God's Word. Then explain that, if we want to get a strong grip on an object, we use all our fingers. If we try to hold on with only two or three fingers, the object is easily grabbed away (demonstrate this as you talk about it). In the same way, we should use each of these methods of biblical intake if we want to get a firm grasp on the Word of God. We need to hear, read, study, and memorize it.

Then, just as our thumb opposes ( and can easily touch) each of our fingers, meditation should touch each of the other activities: We should meditate on what we hear, meditate on what we read, meditate on what we study, and meditate on what we memorize. It does little good if God's Word goes in one ear and out the other. We need to let it sink down into our hearts through meditation.

You'll notice that, in the illustration, the bigger the finger, the harder its corresponding activity is. It's easier to listen than to read, easier to read than study, etc. However, it's also true that the bigger the finger, the more effective the activity is. Experts tell us that after a 24-hour period, we can recall only about 5 percent of what we hear, 15 percent of what we read, 35 percent of what we study, and 100 percent of what we memorize. Since this is true, we would be wise to give special attention to the more effective activities.

Then Ask:

- How firm of a grasp do you personally have on God's Word?
- What are some ways to meditate on what you hear, read, study, and memorize?

As a group, pick a passage of scripture to study or memorize.

**The Basics** #11

by Steve Huerd