

Equipped to download truth

Have you ever downloaded a great resource from the Internet, saved it on your hard drive and then forgot about it? Or perhaps you can't remember where you saved it? I guess downloads are not much use if we don't know how to access them... As far as the truth of God's word, the Bible, is concerned, how do we go about downloading it? We can carve out time to read it and allow its truth to enter our minds, but we also need to know where to find the truth when we need it most. It has to be readily available on the hard drive of our minds so we can make use of it during all the circumstances of life.

Spiritual spam filters

Psalm 1 gives us some important pointers on how we can download the truth and then access it when we need it. First of all, we need to set the filters high to avoid downloading spiritual spam. Perhaps you've installed spam filtering software on your computer to reduce the amount of unwanted, and potentially dangerous, emails arriving in your inbox. Computer spam is bad enough, but spiritual spam is even worse. A mixture of trash that, if unfiltered, begins to distort our thinking and lead us along a path that is not God-honouring and is ultimately self-destructive. Filtering out spiritual spam, according to **Psalm 1:1** is described as not following the advice of the wicked. Wicked? Hey, that's a pretty harsh term, isn't it? But it basically means anyone who is not on God's programme. All day long we are surrounded by the opinions of people who are not on God's programme. They're pouring out of the television, the radio and our computers. They're all over the newspapers and magazines. You hear them as background music in stores and shopping malls. In fact, they're just about everywhere. So we need to set our spiritual spam filters high to keep this stuff out. *Think* about what's going into your mind.

Enjoy it

Having set the spam filters high, the second piece of advice **Psalm 1** gives us is that we delight in God's law. "God's law" is the way the Bible describes the first five books - Genesis to Deuteronomy. The writer of the psalm delights in these books, yet he'd never read the gospel of John or book of Colossians, for example, with all their great truth about Jesus Christ. How much more have we got to delight us! This is downloading the truth, opening it up and just revelling in it, filling our minds with it, thinking about it. In other words, saving it on the hard drive of our minds.

Meditate

But there is a way of creating a quick link to the truth so that we have it readily available for all the circumstances of life. **Psalm 1:2** advises us to meditate on the word of God, day and night. This means thinking about it and turning it over in our minds in the downtime of the day and during the hours of darkness when sleep avoids us and anxious thoughts often attack us.

Fruitful and fresh

Fruitfulness and freshness, as well as spiritual productivity and perseverance, are some of the benefits of downloading the truth and having quick links in place to access it. **Psalm 1:3** tells us that, if we download the truth and have it readily accessible in our minds, we will be fruitful in seasons when God gives us opportunity to make an impact for him. But we will also stay fresh and persevere through the difficult times. Our supply of God's truth is like water at the root of a tree and will keep us going, even in the hard, dry times of our lives - times when we lack direction or opportunity for service, or perhaps times of trial or rejection.

Downloading the truth and meditating upon it will help us to quickly access it to impact whatever situation we face. Do you have a link in place from the desktop of your mind to your mental hard drive?