

Introduction: It all began in Hong Kong, the winter of 1978.

- He put it in my hand.
- God put it in my heart.
- I put it in my briefcase for over 25 years.

The Book: The Knowledge of the _____.

A.W. Tozer

Practice: Read GREAT Books!

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Read Great Books that...

1. _____ your world.

- Biographies
 - *Daws* – The story of Dawson Trotman
 - *Uncle Cam* – The story of Wycliffe Bible translators
 - *Spiritual Secrets* – Hudson Taylor
- *God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- History
- Philosophy
- Geography
- World religions

2. _____ your mind.

- *Knowing God* – J. I. Packer
- *He is There and He is Not Silent*– Francis Schaffer
- *Escape from Reason* – Francis Schaeffer
- *The God Who is There*– Francis Schaeffer and James W. Sire
- *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* – Josh McDowell
- *Mere Christianity* – C. S. Lewis
- *Reasons for Belief* – Norman Geisler

3. _____ your heart.

- *Power Through Prayer* – E. M. Bounds
- *Humility: The Beauty of Holiness* – Andrew Murray
- *Calvary Road* – Roy Hession
- *The Pursuit of God* – A. W. Tozer
- *True Spirituality* – Francis Schaeffer

4. _____ your skills.

- *The Christian Family* – Larry Christiansen
- *Communication: Key to Your Marriage* – H. Norman Wright
- *Learning to Lead* – Fred Smith
- *The Effective Executive* – Peter Drucker
- *Basic Theology* – Charles Ryrie

5. _____ your soul.

- *Ins and Outs of Rejection* – Charles R. Solomon
- *The Strong and The Weak* – Paul Tournier
- *The Return of the Prodigal Son* – Henri J.M. Nouwen
- *Abba's Child* – Brennan Manning

6. First and foremost, read the _____.

- Passion – New Testament
- Leadership – Nehemiah
- Heart – Psalms
- Falling in love with Jesus – John (the Gospels)
- Discipleship – Mark
- Wisdom and how to live – Proverbs & Epistles

Summary:

1. Great Christians are people of “the _____.”
2. Great Christians read _____ .”

Some practical next steps:

1. Begin with regular time in the Bible in a version you can understand.
2. Use a resource that will provide some structure, understanding, and additional insight. (*Daily Walk Devotion*, *YouthWalk*, *One Year Devotional with God*, etc.)
3. Don't be overwhelmed, but develop a plan to read one book every month or two.
4. Enjoy the journey. It is not how many books you read, It's how deeply the ones you read sink into your life.