

HOW IS YOUR GRIP???

ILLUSTRATION = Guys taking me golfing = Teaching me to grip the club, Tennis = grip the racket, Baseball = grip the bat, Gun = grip the stock of the weapon. Basics = How is your Grip???

John 8:31-32 ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in **My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

A. Believers = Jesus speaking to Believers, Sharing an outstanding Principle

B. Bible = Abide in My WORD = **Sword of the Spirit** = **Hebrews 4:12**

"For the **Word of God** is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

From **Billy Hanks, Jr.** = HAND ILLUSTRATION

1. HEAR the Word for **Faith**

A. **Romans 10:17** "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ."

B. **Nehemiah 8:1-9** (NASB)

1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. **2** Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. **3** He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate **from early morning until midday**, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and **all the people were attentive to the book of the law**. **4** Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand. **5** Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, **all the people stood up**.

6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. **7** Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. **8** They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading. **9** Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "**This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.**" For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

2. **READ** the Word for **Fellowship** = Daily "Quiet Time" = Devotionals
 - A. **Luke 24:32** "And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?"
 - B. **I John 1:3** "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."
3. **STUDY** the Word for **Knowledge**
 - A. **Romans 15:4** "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
 - B. **II Timothy 2:15** "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."
4. **MEMORIZE** the Word for **Effectiveness**
 - A. **Psalms 119:11** "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."
 - B. **Deuteronomy 6:6,7** "Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart. You shall repeat them to your heart. You shall repeat them to your children and say them over to them whether at rest in your house or walking abroad, at your lying down or at your rising."
5. **MEDITATE** on the Word for **Understanding**
 - A. **Joshua 1:8** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."
 - B. **Psalms 104:34** "My meditation of Him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the

Lord.”

6. **APPLY** the Word for **Growth**

- A. **James 1:22** “But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merrely hearers who delude themselves.”
- B. **Ezra 7:9b-10** “Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”

C. Blessing = From “The Survival Kit” Freedom from the:

- 1. **PENALTY of SIN**
- 2. **POWER of SIN**
- 3. **PRESENCE of SIN**

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