

**FROM
THE
HEAD
TO
THE
HEART**

Pastor Larry Enterline

RESPONDING TO GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

Responding - Level 5 of 5 levels of learning

1. Introduction

2. Learning Levels

A. **Rote:** Memorizing information

B. **Recognition:** Recognizing information

C. **Restatement:** Restating information

D. **Relation:** Understanding the information and how it relates to one's life

E. **Realization:** Understanding the information and how it relates to one's life and then responding

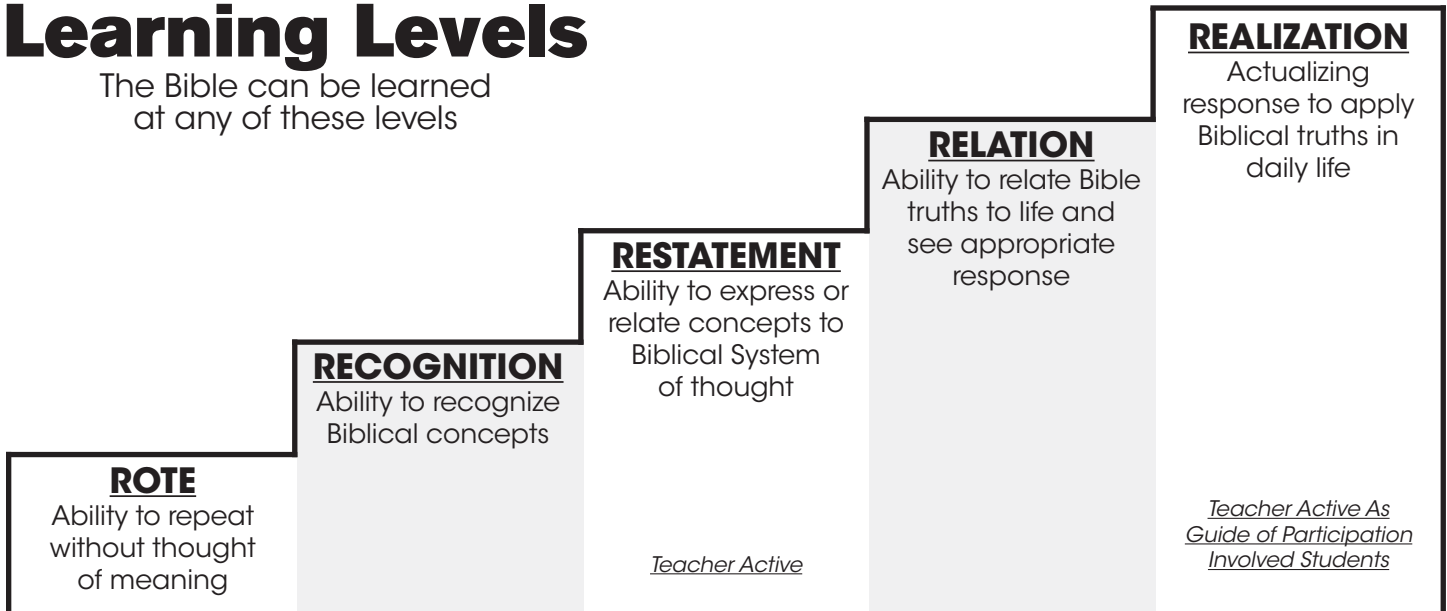
3. Two forms of education (How we think)

A. **Greek:** Information, memorizing, repeating

B. **Hebrew:** Living out the truth learned

Learning Levels

The Bible can be learned at any of these levels



Levels, or Phases of Learning

	LEVELS OF LEARNING	PHASES OR PROCESS	STAGES OF EXPERIENCE	APPROPRIATE CONTENT
LEVEL 1	<i>Rote</i> MATTHEW 6:7	Memory	Memorize	Practice
LEVEL 2	<i>Recognition</i>	Understanding	Faint recognition	Identification
LEVEL 3	<i>Restatement</i>	Translate thought into words	Ability to recall for ourselves or describe in a general way to others	Perception
LEVEL 4	<i>Relation</i>	Seek evidence	Power to explain, prove, illustrate and apply	Problem - Solving
LEVEL 5	<i>Realization</i>	Uses and applications	Knowledge of truth and its implications, that by its force we act upon it by responding	Experience

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Thinking Differently - Responding to God through His Word

- God's Word is alive:
"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper, even to the division of soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
(Hebrews 4:12)
 - This is God's message –
 - This is God speaking –
- God's Word claims to be alive:
"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)
 - Reading the Bible is a spiritual activity.
 - Do you believe you can meet with God in His Word?
 - Let's talk about the "what", and that is, **GOD WANTING TO MEET WITH YOU.**
 - And then, let's talk about the "how" this works.

We can often read the Bible in an intellectual way; for **information**. But we need to understand that it is a spiritual dynamic that should be happening when we read the Bible.

So, as we read, there are a few things important to understand.

#1 – We need to pray. Prayer matters. Psalms 119:18

#2 – Read your Bible and pray back what you have read.

And sometimes it is helpful to pray it back out loud (external processing).

#3 Always important to remember: Open rebellion against God, will hinder communication with God. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."
Psalms 66:18

Our submission or lack of submission to God, will make a difference.

So, let's look at how this works. How can I respond to God through His Word.

- From childhood...
...this is how we should be thinking, when we read God's Word.
How can I respond to God through His Word?

We need to remember:

- Meeting with God - This is who we are responding to.
 - **The God who knows all -**
 - **The God is everywhere -**
 - **The God who is eternal -**
 - **The God who is all knowing -**

As we respond to God, we must _____ personally and correctly.

We call this a _____ - _____ conversation with God

Dr. Bennett's Food for Faith, page 24 | www.twr360.org/ccim/ministries

"Together Time is really a two-way conversation with our living Lord. Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to His children. As we respond correctly and personally to what God is saying, we will learn how to pray biblically and with expectant faith." Dr. Bennett goes on to say: "When I speak about 'praying biblically', I mean that we actually use the very words of the Scriptures we are reading when we respond to our Lord in prayer." - **Dr. Richard A. Bennett**

In this two-way conversation we need to:

1. Respond -

2. Personally -

When responding to God we need to respond in the singular 1st person, using pronouns such as: I, my, mine, me etc.

- "Forgive **me** of **my** sin, NOT forgive **us** of **our** sin."
- "**I** have come to worship you, NOT **we** have come to worship you."
- "Create in **me** a clean heart, NOT create in **us** a clean heart."

Not responding by using 1st person pronouns such as: we, our, ours, us etc.

3. Correctly - In responding, we do not change the meaning of what God has said. This is why it is so important to know what God has said to us in His Word. "Study to show thyself approved unto God..." (KJV) 2 Timothy 2:15.

Correct example: When God initiates through His word - we respond back to Him.

God will incline our heart to something He wants us to understand, as we read, ready to hear from Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."*

You might respond,

- **"Lord, help me to trust and depend on You more and not to think I have all the answers.**
- **Help me to talk to You about everything in my life.**
- **Thank you that you will show me the right ways to go and the right things to do."**

4. Incorrect example:

It's possible to respond to God as if He had no _____ about the subject.

Again, we need to remember:

When we are responding to the Lord:

- **The God who knows all -**
- **The God is everywhere -**
- **The God who is eternal -**
- **The God who is all knowing -**

So, in review:

1. We need to think differently - God's Word is alive, God has a message for His children, and He wants to speak to us.
2. God wants to have a two-way conversation with us.
3. God wants us to respond to what He has said in the Bible.
4. God wants us to respond to Him personally and correctly.

HOW CAN WE HELP THE CHILDREN TO RESPOND TO GOD?

1. Learn to simply read from the Bible verse by verse.
2. Teach the children the idea behind communicating to someone.
3. Apply all of this to communicating with God.
4. Apply this to reading the Bible verse by verse as you would talk with someone
5. This will take time to develop.
6. One verse at a time.
7. After your study time in class, ask the question:
8. There are "little" things that can be done each week to help in creating a new mind-set about meeting with God. Such as:
 - a. Write on the white board in the front of the classroom: "Do you talk to God when you read your Bible?"
 - b. Use vocabulary such as:
 - c. Use questions such as:
 - d. When teaching younger children such as K-2nd grades you will simply teach them what to say in responding to God. This is the beginning of the process. If Jesus said, "I love you, what would you say back to Him? Answer: "I love you." In these younger years, we have the privilege of training them the mindset of responding to God.

"If you teach the child wrongly, he believes you. If you teach him heresies, he will receive them. What you teach him now, he will never forget."

~C.H. Spurgeon

**"FOR THIS IS GOD, OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER;
HE WILL BE OUR GUIDE EVEN TO DEATH." PSALM 48:14**

- Who is this talking about? *God.*
- Whose God is He? *Ours.* Who is "our?" Am I a part of the "our?"
- How long will He be God? *Forever and ever.*
- New/fresh thought about God? What might this tell me about God? *He is different than people and He is greater than people. He understands things differently than I do because He's lived longer than I have. He knows more than I do.*
- How long will He be my God?
- What will He be to me? *My guide.*
- What is a guide? What does a guide do? (Can look in a dictionary. Can discuss this idea with family or others. Can you remember a time when you were led by a guide...what did that guide do?)
- What might be some things He'll be my guide in? *To help me know how He thinks about things and what He would like me to say, do, or where to go. To direct me in how to live, think, speak, and react when I go through times of joy, sadness, change, monotony, failure, disappointment, triumph.*
- How long will He be my guide? *He'll be my guide for my whole life.*
- Is there a promise to claim in this verse? What is it?
- If I really took the words in this verse seriously, would it make a difference in my life? What difference would it make? How might my life look differently?

"You might ask, 'How do I learn to ask good questions?'
By practicing asking dumb and bad questions. There's no such thing
as a dumb question, but some of them just aren't very fruitful.

And some of them will lead you off the context
but you just practice - it's a skill."

~ **Pastor Rich Chaffin**

IN THIS VERSE, IS THERE A...

Promise to claim?

- Are there any promises?
- What does God say He will do?
- Is there something that God tells us to do, if we want this promise for ourselves? (Memorizing this promise will help in the days ahead.)
- Is there a promise I can trust, for a situation I'm in?

Sin to avoid?

- What is the sin to avoid?
- What does this passage teach about sin?
- Does it speak of any consequences of sin?

Warning to heed? What is the warning to heed?

- What is the exact warning?

Command to obey? What is the command to obey?

- What is the exact command?
- How can I obey it?

Good example to follow? What is the good example to follow?

- What is the exact good example?
- How can I follow it?

Bad example to shun? What is the bad example to shun?

- What is the exact bad example?

New/fresh thought about God the Father?

- What does the passage teach about God's character?
- Is there a truth about God the Father that I can rejoice in?
- What characteristics of God do you see, such as patience, mercy, anger, power, love, or knowledge?
- How is God the Father responding to people?
- What difference does it make to you that He is like this? Could you take some time to praise Him for it?

New/fresh thought about God the Son

- Is there a truth about God the Son I can rejoice in?
- What characteristics of God do you see, such as patience, mercy, anger, power, love or knowledge?
- How is God the Son responding to people?
- What difference does it make to you that He is like this? Could you take some time to praise Him for it?

New/fresh thought about God the Holy Spirit

- What role does God the Holy Spirit play in the passage?
- Is there a truth about God the Holy Spirit that I can rejoice in?
- What characteristics of God do you see, such as patience, mercy, anger, power, love or knowledge?
- How is God the Holy Spirit responding to people?
- What difference does it make to you that He is like this? Could you take some time to praise Him for it?

Fresh insight into the person of Satan?

Fresh insight into Satan's cruel goals?

- Might this give me insight into how the world operates?

Fresh insight into Satan's subtle devices?

- Does this give me a warning to heed?
- Might this give me insight into how the world operates?

PSALMS 111:1-4

PRAISE the LORD!

I will praise the LORD with my whole heart,
In the assembly of the upright and in the
congregation.

The works of the LORD are great,
Studied by all who have pleasure in them.

His work is honorable and glorious,
And His righteousness endures forever.

He has made His wonderful works to be
remembered;
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

MARK 10:13-16

Then they brought little children to Him, that He
might touch them; but the disciples rebuked
those who brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly
displeased and said to them, "Let the little
children come to Me, and do not forbid them;
for of such is the kingdom of God.

"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not
receive the kingdom of God as a little child will
by no means enter it."

And He took them up in His arms, laid His
hands on them, and blessed them.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will
find rest for your souls.

"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

LUKE 11:2

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is
great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray
the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers
into His harvest.

MATTHEW 6:19-24

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on
earth, where moth and rust destroy and where
thieves break in and steal;

"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and
where thieves do not break in and steal."

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will
be also."

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore
your eye is good, your whole body will be full
of light."

"But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be
full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in
you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

"No one can serve two masters; for either he
will hate the one and love the other, or else he
will be loyal to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon."

LUKE 9:23-26

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to
come after Me, let him deny himself, and take
up his cross daily, and follow Me.

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake will save
it.

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the
whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words,
of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when
He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's,
and of the holy angels.

"But I tell you truly, there are some standing
here who shall not taste death till they see the
kingdom of God."