**Bring Your Own Bible** (graphic)

**Why Study the Bible?**

**Reasons Believers don’t study the Bible:**

1. It’s too boring.
2. Too time consuming.
3. Doesn’t seem relevant.
4. Hard to understand.
5. Feel unqualified.
6. Uncomfortable with it’s contents.
7. Don’t know how.
8. Scripture is essential to **growth.**

(1 Peter 2:2)

“Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,”

1. Scripture is essential to **spiritual maturity.**

(Hebrews 5:11-14)

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Spiritual maturity is the **consistent** application of **elementary** things, not the **occasional** application of **extraordinary** things.

1. Scripture is essential to **spiritual effectiveness.**

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

What you **believe** will determine how you **behave.**

**Matthew 5** *(pg. 659)*