FAITH & IDENTITY

## THE WORD HAND

*Five ways to get a grip on Scripture.*

BOAZ STRATEGIC

1. **HEARING** — *Romans 10:17* — ≈5%
   Fresh insight from pastors and teachers
2. **READING** — *Revelation 1:3* — ≈15%
   An overview; the base of a daily quiet time
3. **STUDYING** — *Acts 17:11* — ≈35%
   Deepens conviction, with more time and effort
4. **MEMORIZING** — *Psalm 119:9–11* — ≈100%
   The strongest grip, if you keep reviewing it
5. **MEDITATING** — *Psalm 1:2–3* — THE THUMB
   The only finger that touches all the others




Retention figures are The Navigators' illustration, not lab research.

*"A hand with no thumb can hold a book. It takes the thumb to hold what's inside it."*

At Boaz Strategic, we develop leaders who grip the Word, and let it grip them back.

# Is Scripture something you skim, or *grip?*

> *A hand with no thumb can hold a book. It takes the thumb to hold what's inside it.*

Tim Walterbach, a business owner and real estate developer, has spent years studying and meditating on one chapter of the Bible a week, looking for what Jesus is showing him through that moment in history.

**There's multiple methods to grasping Scripture.**

Dave Jewitt, founder of Your One Degree, teaches a simple picture of one: a hand. Each finger is a way of taking in Scripture: hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing. He learned it from a friend in college. The illustration itself comes from The Navigators (1964).

Each finger does a different job. Hearing brings fresh insight from pastors and teachers. Reading builds the foundation of a daily quiet time. Studying deepens conviction. Memorizing is the strongest grip, helping you resist temptation and equip others.

The thumb is meditation, and it is the only finger that can touch all four others. Meditation is what turns hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing into change.

Tim adds his own rhythm: daily time in Psalms and Proverbs, and stillness with the Lord. Both men speak of being compelled by the love of Christ to His Word.

If you find it difficult to engage Scripture, remember that it is the living Word of God. Proverbs 25:2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings" (NIV). Some things God conceals, and wisdom searches them out. Ask the Lord to awaken your eyes to His hidden truths and His unfathomable love for you.

**Apply the Word Hand and turn your heart toward seeking God, as David did: "I seek you with all my heart" (Psalm 119:10) and "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways" (Psalm 119:15).**



Sources: The Navigators, Word Hand (©1964); Proverbs 25:2; Psalm 119:10, 15 (NIV)