

# Getting Ready to Study – PCR

All of your strength, comfort, and ability come from God! You are powerless without Christ!

***“Without Me, ye can do NOTHING!”***

## PRAISE

Listening to, or humming a hymn of praise while thinking the words, is an excellent way to prepare your heart for God’s Word. The world is not tuned to the things of God. Music is a scriptural way to prepare your heart. *“And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed and well, and the evil spirit departed from him.” (1 Samuel 16:23)* Take a moment and praise God for who He is. Thank Him for all His goodness, and tell Him how much you love Him! *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; and his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalm 100:4,5)*

## CONFESS

Confession assumes guilt. It means we agree with God that we sinned. Confession is key to cleansing, because we have turned back to God, admitting our deeds as sin! Name the sin! Tell God exactly which Command you transgressed! Obedience to God’s Word keeps us from sin. Jesus said: *“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.” (John 15:3)* *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all*

*unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Tell God the specific sin you committed. Right wrongs at the earliest possible moment! "...first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matthew 5:24) Obedience to God's Word cleanses us of wrongdoing and makes our petitions effectual through righteousness. "Now ye are clean through the Word..." Fervent prayer is ongoing, earnest, sincere prayer. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16) Ask God for wisdom and understanding as you read His Word. "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth [scolds] not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10) "Therefore I say unto you, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.'" (Mark 11:24) "...The Spirit of Truth...will guide you into all Truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but...He will shew you things to come." (John 16:13)*

## READ

Next begin reading God's Word. Consider the text. What is it about? Who is it written to? Is it instruction, information, prophecy, exhortation, a parable, or a story? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how it applies to you? Is it found in other passages? *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)* Meditate as and after you read. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading in your heart as you study. If you still have difficulty start over with Praise. *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." (2 Peter 1:20)*

**Be diligent! Don't quit! Stick with it! Finish it! Live it!**