

## **Dust On Your Bible?**

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There is a simple phrase that has circulated among Christians for years. Dust on your Bible will lead to dirt in your life. It may sound like a clever saying, but behind it sits a very real spiritual principle. When the Word of God is neglected, our hearts slowly begin to drift. It does not usually happen in dramatic ways. Instead, it happens quietly, over time. The Bible gets moved to the side table, or left closed for days at a time, and before long the voice of Scripture becomes faint in our daily lives.

The Bible was never meant to be a decoration on a shelf or something we only open on Sunday. God gave His Word so it could shape our thinking, guide our decisions, and guard our hearts from the subtle pull of sin. When Scripture is present in our lives, it becomes a steady influence that keeps us grounded in truth. Psalm 119:11 expresses this clearly: “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You”. The connection is simple but powerful. When God’s Word is stored in our hearts, it helps protect us from wandering down paths that lead away from Him.

The opposite is also true. When the Word of God is absent, other voices begin to fill that space. Our culture offers endless opinions and influences through media, conversations, and daily pressures. None of those things are neutral for long. If we are not regularly filling our minds with Scripture, those outside voices can begin shaping our attitudes and decisions. That is often when spiritual “dirt” starts appearing in our lives. It might show up as impatience, pride, bitterness, or habits we once resisted but slowly begin to tolerate.

Jesus spoke about the cleansing power of God’s Word when He told His disciples, “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you” (John 15:3). His words remind us that Scripture has a purifying effect on the heart. It confronts wrong attitudes and gently pulls us back toward truth. When we regularly sit with the Word, we allow God to wash our thinking and renew our perspective.

God gave a similar instruction to Joshua when he stepped into leadership over Israel. The Lord said, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8). The emphasis was not just reading occasionally, but allowing the Word to remain close. Thinking about it often. Speaking it. Letting it influence daily choices. In other words, keeping the Bible active in life rather than letting it collect dust.

Many Christians, myself included, have experienced this personally. When several days pass without time in Scripture, something inside begins to feel unsettled. Worry grows a little easier. Frustrations feel heavier. Small problems seem larger than they really are. Yet when we return to the Word, even for a short time, something shifts. Perspective returns. God’s promises remind us who He is and who we are in Him. The noise of the world becomes quieter because truth is once again guiding our thoughts.

Hebrews 4:12 explains why Scripture has this kind of impact. It says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”. God’s Word is not passive reading material. It actively works within us, revealing what is happening beneath the surface of our lives. Sometimes it comforts us, sometimes it corrects us, and sometimes it exposes attitudes that need to change. Yet every part of that process is an act of God’s care for us.

If your Bible has gathered some dust lately, there is no reason to feel ashamed or discouraged. Every Christian goes through seasons where spiritual habits weaken. The important thing is simply to begin again. Open the Scriptures and spend a few quiet minutes reading and reflecting. Start with a Psalm, a Gospel passage, or a chapter that reminds you of God’s faithfulness.

**A dusty Bible does not have to stay dusty. The moment we return to God's Word, we place ourselves where His truth can begin shaping us again. Over time, that steady exposure to Scripture cleans our hearts, sharpens our thinking, and helps keep the "dirt" of life from taking root. When the Word stays close, our lives stay cleaner, because God is continually speaking into them.**