

# 5

## LESSONS I LEARNED FROM WHEN I WAS **afraid** TO READ MY BIBLE.

ONCE UPON A TIME, I was **hesitant** to spend a lot of time reading my Bible. It could be . . . tough. But, along the way, I've learned some things that changed the way I feel about spending time walking around in those sixty-six Old and New Testament books.

**1 THAT FEAR IS NOTHING BUT A LIE FROM THE ENEMY because he is terrified to see us sharpening our weapon.**

*He knows this verse well: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged SWORD. . ." (Hebrews 4:12, emphasis mine). **Do we think the enemy is going to be our biggest cheerleader? Hardly!** No, he wants our weapons dull, so he will be only too happy to try and make us feel INTIMIDATED, SCARED, DUMB, HURRIED, AND CONFUSED about God's Word.*

**2 THE EXCUSES THE ENEMY WILL USE ON US MIGHT BE LEGITIMATE, but there is more to the story that he will never, ever mention; we don't read alone.**

*It's true that we might have no clue where we should be reading. It's true that we might not understand some things or remember everything right in that moment. But **THE HOLY SPIRIT will.** It's His job. Jesus said so. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you** all things and will **remind you** of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).*

**3 SO, IF WE HAVE THE URGE TO READ THE WORD, WE JUST HAVE TO READ IT. If the enemy is hoping we won't, and the Spirit is at the ready to help us when we do, we can be certain the nudge is coming straight from God.**

*And if God is telling me He has something to say, I want my response to agree with that of Isaiah when he said, "He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and **I have not been rebellious**; I have not drawn back" (Isaiah 50:5). **I don't want to leave my Bible closed when I feel like I should open it.***

**4 A PENCIL IS A DANGEROUS WEAPON, TOO. If we don't expect to read something worth writing an "Ah-ha!" note by, we are just checking off a list.**

*Some people don't like to write in their Bibles, and I respect that. That means a notebook is as important as a pencil. I only know that while I may not write something every time, and when I do, I may even forget what I wrote by the next day, God will still have had a reason to get my attention. ". . . (My word) will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). **We can rest 100% assured that we will see the verse(s) and our notes again someday!** And it will be exactly what we needed to read.*

**5 I HAVE NEVER, EVER BEEN SORRY THAT I READ MY BIBLE.**

*Whenever, wherever, whatever I have read, He has used it for my good. Sometimes for courage. Sometimes for instruction. Always for wisdom. Always beneficial. And that pretty much settles it all.*