

Developing Spiritual Habits In 2025

August: Volume Reading

In August, we are going to focus on what I call “volume reading,” which entails reading multiple chapters a day. Just as there is value in studying a passage in depth, there is also great value in reading large sections of Scripture at a time. It gives us a big picture view of major themes that amplify one another. It also helps us get a sense of the author’s tone. This is especially true with NT letters, as they were meant to be read and heard in one sitting.

There are two reading plans to choose from. Either one is fine. It just depends on how ambitious you want to be.

1. The first option is to read all the New Testament letters (except Revelation). That’s reading 3-4 chapters a day.
2. The second option is to just read Paul’s letters. That will put you at 2-3 chapters a day.

If you have been journaling, we have been following a pattern of **Read, Reflect, Pray**. Because the daily readings are going to take longer, I suggest just writing a short prayer in response to the reading. The point is not to have big insights every day. It is just to let the word wash over you for a month. It will have a cumulative effect.

HERE’S AN OVERVIEW (from Alex Moser) of the New Testament letters and why reading them all in a month can be fruitful.

The New Testament has 21 letters written by key leaders, or epistles, in the early church. These letters were written as the church spread throughout the Roman world. Apostles, such as Peter and Paul, would start a church and leave, but still have correspondence with that church through these letters. That means these letters had a specific community that the author was writing to.

Now contrast these letters with the other primary genre in the New Testament: narrative. In narrative, there’s a storied flow from one scene to the next. We naturally read narrative in large chunks, because we see the ebb and flow of the story more clearly. In the epistles, there’s a logical flow from one point to the next. With epistles we naturally slow down, reading paragraphs at a time to digest the argument of the author.

That impulse can be good. Breaking down the letter into smaller parts and making sure we understand the author’s logical flows can help us understand the letter. However, it would also serve us as readers to take in the letters in larger sections, several chapters at a time.

The first reason is **design**. These letters were written to be read aloud in one sitting for their intended audience. As we break down our readings of these letters into smaller sections, we can stray from how the intended author intended it to be read. This can hinder our understanding of the text.

The second reason is **context**. As we read these letters wholly, we catch themes and see the contours of the argument. For example, reading of our adoption into God’s family in Romans 8 makes more sense in the larger context of Romans 5-8.

We read the epistles so that we might love and know God more deeply. Reading them as whole letters helps us see the God who speaks to His people, both to the original audience and to us today.

AUGUST READING PLAN

– NT Letters (except Revelation) –

Day	Reading	Completed
August 1	Romans 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 2	Romans 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 3	Romans 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 4	Romans 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 5	1 Corinthians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 6	1 Corinthians 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 7	1 Corinthians 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 8	1 Corinthians 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 9	2 Corinthians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 10	2 Corinthians 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 11	2 Corinthians 9-13	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 12	Galatians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 13	Galatians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 14	Ephesians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 15	Ephesians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 16	Philippians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 17	Colossians 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 18	1 Thessalonians 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 19	2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 20	1 Timothy 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 21	1 Timothy 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 22	2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 23	Titus 1-3 + Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 24	Hebrews 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 25	Hebrews 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 26	Hebrews 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 27	James 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 28	1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 29	2 Peter 1-3 + Jude	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 30	1 John 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 31	2 John + 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

AUGUST READING PLAN

– Paul's Letters –

Day	Reading	Completed
August 1	Romans 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 2	Romans 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 3	Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 4	Romans 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 5	Romans 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 6	1 Corinthians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 7	1 Corinthians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 8	1 Corinthians 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 9	1 Corinthians 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 10	1 Corinthians 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 11	2 Corinthians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 12	2 Corinthians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 13	2 Corinthians 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 14	2 Corinthians 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 15	Galatians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 16	Galatians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 17	Ephesians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 18	Ephesians 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 19	Philippians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 20	Philippians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 21	Colossians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 22	Colossians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 23	1 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 24	1 Thessalonians 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 25	2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 26	1 Timothy 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 27	1 Timothy 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 28	2 Timothy 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 29	2 Timothy 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 30	Titus 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
August 31	Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>