Sacred Habits: The Divine Reading of Scripture

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (CSB)
For this is God's will, your sanctification.

John 17:17 (CSB)
Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

1. Believe Scripture is <u>God's Word</u> to Us

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (CSB)
This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.

- **God's Word is Clear, Sufficient and Necessary**

Psalm 119:130 (CSB)
The revelation of your words brings light and gives understanding to the inexperienced.

Deuteronomy 30:14 (CSB)
But the message is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may follow it.

- **God's Word is Inspired, Inerrant and Infallible**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CSB)
16 All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- **God's Word is Supernatural and Eternal**

Hebrews 4:12 (CSB)
For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Psalm 119:160 (CSB)
The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.

Isaiah 40:8 (CSB)
The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.

2. We Need a <u>Practical Approach</u> to Encounter Christ

- **Silencio - Recognize**

Psalm 119:17-19 (BSB)
17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. 18 Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law. 19 I am a stranger on the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me.

- **Lectio - Read**

- **Meditatio - Reflect**

- **Oratio - Respond**

- **Contemplatio - Rest**

Exodus 33:14 (BSB)
And the LORD answered, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

3. We Should <u>Pursue the Presence</u> of Christ Daily

A.B. Simpson
"The highest spiritual condition is one where life is spontaneous and flows without effort... So God leads us into spiritual conditions and habits which become the spontaneous impulses of our being, and we live and move in the fullness of the divine life. These spiritual habits are not the outcome of some transitory impulse, but are often slowly acquired and established. They begin, like every true habit, in a definite act of will, and they are confirmed by the repetition of that act until it becomes a habit. The first stages always involve effort and choice. We have to take a stand and hold it steadily, and after we have done so a certain time, it becomes second

nature, and carries us by its own force. The Holy Spirit is willing to form such habits in every direction of our Christian life, and if we will but obey Him in the first steppings of faith, we will soon become established in the attitude of obedience, and duty will be delight."