

# Lesson 2: The Word of GOD

## "What is the Significance of the Bible in My Life?"

As you continue your personal journey of discipleship your first and foremost tool of growth and change is the Word of God. In our first lesson we learned about God, Who He is and some of His characteristics. The Bible is the only absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. The standards by which a Christian is to live his life are found in the pages of the Bible, so lets get started.

The **purpose** of this lesson is to acquaint the Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his everyday life, so he can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of his walk with Jesus Christ.

### The Word of God is completely reliable.



1. The Bible came from the mind of God through men who wrote it down while being moved by the Holy Spirit so that what came from their pens was without error. 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV *inspiration* means God-breathed)
2. The Bible is the Christians final appeal for all matters of faith and practice. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all our experiences and opinions are to be judged by the infallible standard of scripture, what the Bible says is greater than any experience. Look at what the apostle Peter had to say about the written Word even though he had a direct and personal supernatural experience with God. II Peter 1:16-21
3. We believe that the Bible is completely accurate in matters of history, science, geography and prophecy or any other subject that it speaks about. Not one contradiction or error! Psalm 12:6-7
4. The spoken Word of God created the universe. Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6; Genesis 1:3
5. The Word of God is complete; people are not receiving any new revelations nothing more can be added to Scripture. Revelation 22:19

### A few facts about the Bible.

1. A total of 66 books.
2. Written by more than 40 authors.
3. Written over a time span of about 2,000 years.
4. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man.

## The Word of God is active in salvation.

1. I Peter 1:23 says a man is born again "by the word of God." The Word of God is the agent that brings about the new birth.
2. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith." Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."
3. The Gospel (God's good news of salvation for sinners is summarized in the Scripture passage of I Corinthians 15:1-6.) In this passage we find the two key elements of the gospel and two proofs of these elements.

Key: You must believe what the **Bible says** about your sin, God's provision through Christ and our need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

## The Word of God is active in your spiritual growth.

Since salvation comes through the Word of God, it must also be your absolute, infallible guide to teach you how to live.

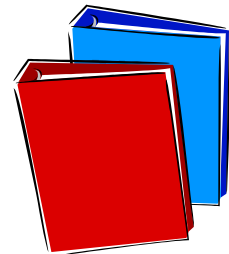


1. I Peter 2:2 says that the "milk" of God's Word helps the believer to grow.

Illustration: Just like babies need milk to grow, the new believer or the immature believer needs to start with the "milk" of God's Word.

2. The scripture will first teach us how to think so that we can then do as God says. Romans 12:1-2

Illustration: Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner's manual, which tells you how to operate it. If you don't go by the book, it won't work. The Bible is God's "owner's manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions; but you must "go by the book."



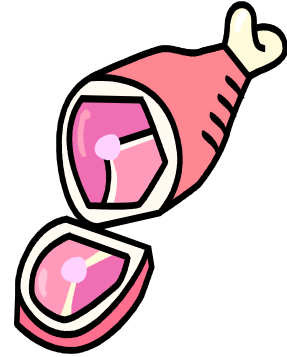
## The Word of God equips you to serve God.

God always wants us to take what we are learning, apply it in real life and cause us to help others. "That the man of God may be perfect (mature), thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

## **The Word of God sustains you through life.**

This is illustrated in the Bible as "spiritual food." It is a complete and balanced diet. Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16 Here are some of the foods the Bible is likened to.

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|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Milk  | I Peter 2:2                          |
| 2. Honey | Psalms 119:103; Proverbs 16:24       |
| 3. Bread | Matthew 4:4                          |
| 4. Water | Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26      |
| 5. Meat  | Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2 |



## **The Word of God keeps us from sin, so that we can please God.**

1. When we embrace and obey the teachings of scripture it keeps us from sin. Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3
2. When we do sin, the Word of God teaches us how to deal with sin and what God does for our sin. I John 1:9
3. The Word of God brings hope to the person desiring to make change in their life. Rom. 15:4

## **How do I learn the Bible?**



1. We must develop and maintain a consistent method whereby we consistently study the Scripture. Develop the habit of reading the Bible daily. 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 1:2
2. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, tapes, preachers, etc.), but ultimately, the Holy Spirit reveals truth to you. John 14:26; John 16:13-15
3. Remember, the understanding of Scripture is not so much a matter of our own natural intellect or academic ability. Understanding the Bible is one of the privileges of being a Christian. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God..." I Corinthians 2:9-16
4. Often the best way to get your Bible questions answered is to compare scripture with scripture.

## **Read this famous quote concerning the Bible:**

"The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be opened at the judgment and remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents."

## **Basic questions.**

### Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places that deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of I John, and Psalm 119 are excellent places to begin.



1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31
2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. I John 5:13
3. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for the Word of God.

### What if I find something I don't understand?

1. Don't get upset about it. God will reveal it to you in time — when you are ready. John 16:12
2. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling.
3. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Your discipler, your pastor or a spiritual leader in your church either can help answer your question or point you to resources to answer your question.
4. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

What if people say the Bible is just man's opinions or it's full of errors?

1. Don't argue with people!
2. Remind them that the Bible is the only Book that has made specific prophecies that were hundreds of years later fulfilled in exact detail.  
Example: Micah 5:2 that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem fulfilled Matthew 2:6.
3. The Bible some 3800 times claims to be the word of the Lord!
4. Ask, "Have you ever read it" or "what if its claims are true"?



**Homework**

1. What verses do we use to prove that the Word of God is completely reliable?
2. Why is reading and understanding the Word of God key to your spiritual growth?
3. How does the Word of God help the believer in his battle with sin?

**Key memory verses:**

II Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:9, II Timothy 3:16-17

**NOTE:** Many popular attitudes about the Bible are:

1. The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
2. The Bible can only be understood by the "clergy" or by years of formal education.
3. In order to understand the true meanings of the scriptures, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Our next meeting will be: \_\_\_\_\_

# Daily in the Word

**It is important to spend time reading and meditating on the Word of God. Read each day's passage and answer the two questions for each day. As you read these passages, remember that these are God's words to YOU and that He wants you to learn more about Him by reading His Word.**

<b>DAY 1</b>  <b>Psalm</b> <b>119: 1-8</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>  <b>Psalm</b> <b>119:9-16</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>
<b>DAY 3</b>  <b>Psalm</b> <b>119:33-40</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>

<b>DAY 4</b> <b>2 Timothy</b> <b>3:14-17</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>
<b>DAY 5</b> <b>2 Peter</b> <b>1:16-21</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>
<b>DAY 6</b> <b>Psalm</b> <b>119: 89-96</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>
<b>DAY 7</b> <b>Psalm</b> <b>119: 105-112</b>	<b>What is the Word saying?</b>	<b>How does this apply to me?</b>