

Lesson 4 - The Bible

Think of the miracle of reading any book, reading about things you've never experienced before. A person in a hot climate can experience snow for the first time, or learn all about Russia, China or some other foreign country... They are a seemingly endless resource of human knowledge, but what about a book where God is the author? How much could we learn? How valuable would that be?

The Bible was written by over 40 authors over a period of approximately 1500-1800yrs between 1700BC and 100AD. They were a very diverse group of individuals: prophets, priests, kings, government officials, fugitives, fishermen, a religious zealot, a doctor... The Bible says they were "moved by the Holy Spirit" to pen divinely inspired words! So the Holy Spirit is the true author of the Bible from cover to cover!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (what we should believe about God and the world around us), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Although the Bible has 66 distinct books within it, they make up one amazing revelation of God's character, His love for mankind and His exceedingly great promises to them. It doesn't include all the information in the world, but it does have ALL the information God thinks is vitally important for us!

Matthew 4:4 says:

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

It's impact is eternal and it is the communication bridge between God and man.

The Bible is the best seller of all time. It was first printed in Gutenberg, Germany in 1456. Written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, it has been translated into 2,800 languages and dialects from around the world.

What the Bible is:

The Word of God - is inspired by the Holy Spirit, spoken and written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit to do so.

Read 2 Peter 1:20-21:

"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Again, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (is God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine (what we should believe about God and the world around us), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The Bible Testifies of Jesus - We read it to know Him. The Bible reveals His words, His actions, His heart, His whole person are all revealed to us through His Word.

John 5:39 says:

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

The Bible is "truth" itself:

Read Psalm 119:160

"The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

And John 17:17:

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

The Bible is the final authority regarding our beliefs about God - We must not only believe in God, but also believe Him and His words! We can't just believe anything we want to about God, His Word defines Him and instructs us what to believe.

Read John 8:31-32:

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

The Bible is our “Manual for Living”, given to us by our Creator!

Everything you buy comes with a manual (instructions) for it's proper use.

A computer has a manual. If you misuse the computer (or anything you've purchased), contrary to the advice of it's manual, you have abused it and it's not the manufacturer's fault. The same applies to our life here. If we don't follow the instruction of God's Word, the consequences are not His fault, but ours.

A child never has to burn their fingers on oven hobs if that child follows proper instruction from the parents and obeys it.

Gravity is a good law of nature, but if you don't respect it and understand your relation to it, it can kill you!

God's Word is full of spiritual laws. What you choose to do with those laws will bring life or death, blessing or cursing. Amazing results and rewards occur when we follow God's way of doing things!

Read Deuteronomy 30:19:

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both you and your descendants may live...”

God asks us to choose His Word and to CHOOSE LIFE and BLESSING! So that means we HAVE the choice! That's GOOD news! God said t would NOT ONLY affect our lives but our children and offspring after us!

The Bible gives light to our understanding.

Psalms 119:105 says:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Proverbs 4:20-22:

It gives guidance, wisdom and direction for our lives. God promises the results of walking in the light will be health and long life.

The Bible, God's Word, causes us to bear lasting and meaningful fruit.

Psalms 1:1-3 says:

*“Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.*

The Bible gives us the strength and resilience to survive and thrive in life's storms! Storms come to everyone, it's your foundation that counts!

Read Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus said:

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The Bible causes our life to bring forth fruit and to bud, open up like a flower!

Faith Comes By Hearing God's Word

Ever wonder how to acquire faith? Reading God's Word, the Bible causes faith to arise in our hearts. Faith in God (which is trust in Him), comes by listening carefully to all He has to say to us through the Bible. That's when you will TRULY begin to trust Him to uphold you in life, and eventually your faith will increase and grow stronger!

(example: like Isaiah 41:10)

Let's read Romans 10:17:

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

God's Word is "alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword" according to Hebrews 4:12. It pierces our thoughts and renews our mind in order to bring our thoughts into line with the way God thinks!

God says, *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* - Romans 12:2

We demonstrate how GOOD God's will is for our lives when we live according to His principles and experience the AWESOME results for ourselves!

God's Words are *"Spirit and they are Life"*, spiritual food for our hearts.

John 6:63 says:

"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

God's Word is full of insight, both natural and spiritual.

Over 2000 years before Christopher Columbus, Isaiah 40:22 said that God *"sits on the circle of the earth"*.

And what about evolution? The Bible says life started in the sea... then land, but only and always in response to God's commands, *"Let there be...!"* And they always multiplied after their own kind (or species).

Man is not a product of evolution, but we were created directly by God in His image with a 3 billion character DNA information code on the inside which points directly to intelligent design! You are God's own handiwork!

(Science still has NO explanation of how life started OR how the universe came into existence. Saying it started with a "Big Bang" does NOT explain it's beginning.)

Hebrews 11:3 says the heavens were *"framed by the Word of God."*

God's Word is a Spiritual Sword

The Bible is the "Sword of the Spirit" according to Ephesians 6:17. It's the most powerful weapon against the devil and temptation! Jesus used it in wilderness to rebuke the devil, and we can too! Jesus always said, "It is written...!"

The Word of God is Eternal

Matthew 24:35 says:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

The Bible is the Word by Which all Human Beings will One Day Be Judged.

It doesn't matter what peoples' religion or beliefs are. Everyone's life will be measured against God's Word and what is written in the Bible.

In John 12:47-48, Jesus said:

"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

What you do with God's Word, the Bible, determines where you will spend eternity.

This is why it is SO IMPORTANT to become intimately acquainted with God's Word and what it is teaching us. We need to put it into practice on a daily basis. Bible's are not meant to be ornaments on a coffee table or a book shelf. The Bible is there to be lived!

Have a Daily Devotional Time

Start reading a chapter of your Bible every day. Start in the book of John. Get a Daily Devotional which will help you to grow in your knowledge of God also. These can also be downloaded as Apps or found online.

Knowing all this, would you dare only to have the Bible as an ornament on a table? No way! Is there anything more important than knowing God? No.

If you don't have your own Bible purchase one and start reading the Gospel of John.

(For the teacher: Explain very briefly the Old and New Testaments and the difference for us. What are "books", "chapters", "verses" etc. Explain a bit about finding your way in the Bible and assure them it WILL become more familiar over time :-)

MEMORY VERSE - 2 Timothy 3:16

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."