

Lesson 5

BIBLE: LISTENING TO GOD

*How does God
communicate with me?*

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INTRODUCTION

Our salvation provided us the unbelievable privilege of experiencing the relationship with God He intended for us to have from the beginning.

The key to any relationship is communication. God communicates to us through His Word... the Bible.

God left His Word on the earth in written form to be the authoritative standard by which He reveals Himself.

Nothing on earth will ever compare to the written Word of God until the incarnate Word of God (the Lord Jesus Christ) returns to establish His kingdom on the earth.

As we learned in [Lesson 3](#), God created man to have an intimate, personal, love, RELATIONSHIP with Him. Though our sin separated us from that relationship, when we called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, we were born into God's family with the unbelievable privilege of experiencing the relationship with God He intended for us to have from the beginning.

As in any relationship, the key is COMMUNICATION. Just as we express ourselves to those we love through the WORDS that we speak, God expresses Himself to those He loves through the WORDS that He speaks. Those words are found in the book we call the "BIBLE"... the WORD of God.

God has left His Word on the earth in written form because it is the authoritative standard by which He reveals His attributes, His will, His plan, His purposes, and His heart to the people He loves and with whom He longs to have a relationship.

The WRITTEN Word of God (the BIBLE) is without a doubt the single-most incredible and supernatural commodity on this entire planet. It will continue to be so until the INCARNATE Word of God (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) returns to establish His kingdom on the earth.

Key quote:

"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."

— Author Unknown

The purpose of this lesson is to show you why the Bible can be trusted and show you how to experience its purposes and power in every aspect of your relationship with Him.

The purpose of this lesson is to show you why you can trust the Bible and to show you how God wants to use His Word in your life to allow you to experience its purposes and power in every aspect of your relationship with Him.

The Supernatural Unity & Construction Of The Bible

Section A

- ❑ The word we use to refer to the Word of God in the English language, “Bible,” is actually a transliteration of the Greek words “Biblos” (Book) and “Biblia” (Books). We use the word “Bible” to refer to the sacred “Books” of Scripture.
- ❑ We could say that the “Books” of the Bible are equivalent to the chapters of any other book. As a given number of chapters comprise a book, the Bible is comprised of 66 “Books.”
- ❑ Unlike chapters, however, the “Books” of the Bible each stand alone as a complete, self-contained “Book,” and yet at the same time work together in harmony with the other “Books” to form one “Book” called the Bible.
- ❑ The 66 Books of the Bible are divided into two major sections:
 - The OLD Testament with 39 Books.
 - The NEW Testament with 27 Books.
- ❑ The Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation (the first and last Books of the Bible) take all of the teaching of all of the rest of the Books of the Bible and dovetail it together in a supernatural unity that can only be explained as coming from God.
 - In **GENESIS** we read: “In the beginning God created the HEAVEN and the EARTH.” (1:1)
 - In **REVELATION** we read: “I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH.” (21:1)
 - In **GENESIS** we find the FIRST Adam with his wife Eve in the Garden of Eden, reigning over all the earth. (1:26-28)
 - In **REVELATION** we find the last Adam (I Corinthians 15:45), Christ, with His wife, the Church, in the City of God, reigning over the entire universe. (21:9-23)
 - In **GENESIS** we are told: “And the gathering of the waters called he SEAS.” (1:10)
 - In **REVELATION** we are told: “And there was no more SEA.” (21:1)
 - In **GENESIS** God created the sun, the moon, and the day and the night. (1:5,16)
 - In **REVELATION** “there shall be NO night there.” (22:5) “And the city had NO need of the sun, neither the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” (21:23)
 - In **GENESIS** the Tree of Life is DENIED to sinful man. (3:22)
 - In **REVELATION** the Tree of Life “yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (22:2)
 - In **GENESIS** man hears God say: “CURSED is the ground for thy sake.” (3:17)
 - In **REVELATION** man will hear God say: “And there shall be no more CURSE.” (22:3)

The word “Bible” means “Book” or “Books”.

There are 66 “Books” of the Bible.

God combined the 66 “Books” to be one “Book” called the Bible.

There are 39 “Books” of the Old Testament.
There are 27 “Books” of the New Testament.

Viewing the 66 “Books” of the Bible in a circle rather than a list reveals the Bible’s supernatural unity from Genesis to Revelation.

- In **GENESIS** Satan appears to TORMENT man. (3:1)
- In **REVELATION** Satan “shall be TORMENTED forever and ever.” (20:10)
- In **GENESIS** man’s FIRST home was beside a river. (2:10)
- In **REVELATION** man’s ETERNAL home will be beside a river – “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” (22:1)
- **GENESIS** ends with a believer in Egypt, lying in a COFFIN. (50:1-3)
- **REVELATION** ends with all believers reigning forever in eternity where there shall be no more DEATH.” (21:4)¹

¹H.L. Wilmington, *That Manuscript from Outer Space*, (Nashville, Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers, 1974), 83-84

How this supernatural unity was actually achieved:

- The supernatural quality of the Bible’s unity becomes even more spectacular and evident when you see how it was actually achieved.

The Bible was written over a period of almost 1600 years...

- **The incredible LENGTH OF TIME in its writing.**

- ❖ The Bible was written over a period of almost 1600 years!
- ❖ Over 60 generations.

There were over 40 different writers...

- **The many WRITERS.**

- ❖ There were over 40 different writers.

They wrote from many different backgrounds.

- **The many BACKGROUNDS.**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ❖ Moses was an Egyptian prince. | ❖ Isaiah was a prophet. |
| ❖ Joshua was a soldier. | ❖ Daniel was a prime minister. |
| ❖ Samuel was a priest. | ❖ Matthew was a tax collector. |
| ❖ David was a king. | ❖ Mark was an evangelist. |
| ❖ Job was a rich farmer. | ❖ Luke was a physician. |
| ❖ Amos was a poor farmer. | ❖ John was a wealthy fisherman. |
| ❖ Ezra was a scribe. | ❖ Peter was a poor fisherman. |
| ❖ Nehemiah was a cupbearer. | ❖ Paul was a tentmaker. |

They wrote from many different places.

- **The many PLACES from which they wrote.**

- ❖ They wrote on THREE different CONTINENTS.
- ❖ They wrote from all kinds of different places.

▪ In the desert (Exodus 17)	▪ In Babylon (Daniel)
▪ On Mount Sinai (Exodus 20)	▪ In Persia (Esther)
▪ In Palestine (Most)	▪ In Corinth (I and II Thessalonians)
▪ In Egypt (Jeremiah)	▪ In Ephesus (Galatians)
▪ On the Isle of Patmos (Revelation)	▪ In Rome (Colossians, II Timothy)

They wrote in three different languages...

- **The LANGUAGES in which they wrote.**

- ❖ The Bible was written in THREE different languages: HEBREW, GREEK, and ARAMAIC.

They wrote in different times...

- **The TIMES in which they wrote.**

- ❖ Some wrote in times of PEACE and others in times of WAR.

They wrote in different moods...

- **The different MOODS from which they wrote.**

- ❖ Some wrote in the heights of JOY and some wrote in the depths of SORROW.

They wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects...

- **The different SUBJECTS on which they wrote.**

- ❖ They wrote on HUNDREDS of CONTROVERSIAL subjects.

SO WHAT IS THE POINT?

Though the Bible was written over a period of almost 1600 years, with over 40 different writers who came from all kinds of different backgrounds, who wrote from three different continents and in three different languages, and all kinds of different times, places, and moods, and wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects, from Genesis to Revelation, the Bible reads as if it were written by ONE AUTHOR. Of course, it was ... GOD!

Yet, the Bible reads as if it were written by one author. Of course, it was... GOD!

The Trustworthiness And Sufficiency Of The Bible

Section B

□ Read Psalm 19:7-11

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

In Psalm 19:7-11, God gives His own testimony concerning His Word.

In this concise but monumental paragraph God gives to us His own TESTIMONY concerning the Bible. He refers to His Word using six different titles, all of which contain the phrase “... of the Lord.” Obviously, God wants to be certain that we know that His Word proceeds from no other Source than He Himself.

In this passage, God uses six titles to refer to His Word...

Also note that each of the six titles for the Word of God identifies a characteristic of the TRUSTWORTHINESS of Scripture along with a statement of its SUFFICIENCY to meet our every need.

Reveals six reasons it is trustworthy...

And makes six statements of its sufficiency.

GOD’S PANORAMIC TESTIMONY CONCERNING HIS WORD PSALM 19:7-11

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
1. The <u>LAW</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:7a)	It is <u>PERFECT</u> .	It <u>CONVERTS</u> the <u>SOUL</u> .
2. The <u>TESTIMONY</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:7b)	It is <u>SURE</u> .	It makes <u>WISE</u> the <u>SIMPLE</u> .
3. The <u>STATUTES</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:8a)	It is <u>RIGHT</u> .	It <u>REJOICES</u> the <u>HEART</u> .
4. The <u>COMMANDMENTS</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:8b)	It is <u>PURE</u> .	It <u>ENLIGHTENS</u> the <u>EYES</u> .
5. The <u>FEAR</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:9a)	It is <u>CLEAN</u> .	It <u>ENDURES FOREVER</u> .
6. The <u>JUDGMENTS</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:9b,11)	It is <u>TRUE</u> and <u>RIGHTEOUS</u> .	It provides <u>WARNING</u> and <u>REWARD</u> .

A more in-depth view of each of the six monumental statements God makes concerning His Word on Psalm 19:7-11.

Now that we have seen God’s panoramic testimony concerning His Word from Psalm 19:7-11, let’s allow Him to give us a more in-depth view of each of the six monumental statements He makes in this passage concerning His incredible Book.

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
1. The <u>LAW</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:7a)	It is <u>PERFECT</u> .	It <u>CONVERTS</u> the <u>SOUL</u> .

First, the Bible is “the law of the Lord”... It is the **AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD** by which God reveals His complete instruction.

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God’s LAW.

- The title “the law of the LORD” refers to the fact that the Bible is the AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD by which God reveals His complete instruction concerning:
 - CREED (What we BELIEVE)
 - CONDUCT (What we DO)
 - CHARACTER (What we ARE)

II Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible can be trusted because it is PERFECT... It is our complete and final authority.

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible’s trustworthiness because it is PERFECT.

- Unlike any other book on the face of the earth, the Bible is absolutely and completely perfect.

Deuteronomy 32:4; James 1:17, 25

- To get God’s mind on what He means by “perfect,” this same word is translated in other places in the Old Testament as “without BLEMISH,” “without SPOT,” “UPRIGHT,” “WHOLE,” “FULL,” and “COMPLETE.”
- Satan has always sought to destroy man’s confidence in the **perfection** of God’s Word. The first recorded words of Satan in the Bible came to a human being in the form of a question concerning the validity (**perfection**) of the Word of God... i.e. “Yea, hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1)
- Satan attacks the **perfection** of God’s Word because he knows the significance of what will take place in a believer’s life when the Bible is not simply a GUIDE for living, and not just a key SOURCE of truth, but is the absolute final AUTHORITY for everything he believes, everything he is, and everything he does. (See this principle repeated in I Thessalonians 2:13.)
- There is nothing on the earth that is a greater threat to the kingdom of darkness than a common MAN with a common BIBLE. Though most Bible scholars today do not believe that — SATAN most certainly does!

Mark 12:37b; Genesis 3:1

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's sufficiency because it CONVERTS the SOUL.

- ☐ A person living in the 21st century may find various means of accomplishing behavior modification (i.e. Psychiatric and/or psychological counseling, mind-altering drugs, hypnosis, self-discipline, etc.) There is, however, only one means in the entire world that has the power, not only to modify a person's behavior, but to actually "CONVERT" his "soul" (i.e. to change him from the INSIDE OUT)! "The law of the Lord" **alone** has the power to stop a man in his tracks, turn him around, and send his life heading in the opposite direction because of a conversion in his soul.

The Bible is completely sufficient because it CONVERTS the SOUL... It changes a person from the inside out.

II Chronicles 34:18-28; Romans 7:7-9; Galatians 3:24; Hebrews 4:12

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
2. The <u>TESTIMONY</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:7b)	It is <u>SURE</u> .	It makes <u>WISE</u> the <u>SIMPLE</u> .

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God's TESTIMONIES.

- ☐ Just as a person is brought into a courtroom to give a declaration of truth concerning something he witnessed (i.e. a testimony), the Bible is God's TRUTHFUL DECLARATION that witnesses to us of all that He is and all that He wants us to be. It is the "testimony of the LORD."

Secondly, the Bible is "the testimony of the Lord"... It is God's TRUTHFUL DECLARATION that witnesses to us of all that He is and all that He wants us to be.

I John 5:9

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's trustworthiness because it is SURE.

- ☐ The word that is translated as "sure" in Psalm 19:7 is translated in other places in the Old Testament as "believe, trust, assurance, steadfast, established, and verified." In terms of the trustworthiness of the Bible we could say:

The Bible can be "BELIEVED" and "TRUSTED" with absolute "ASSURANCE" and "STEDFASTNESS" that it is the "ESTABLISHED" and "VERIFIED" "sure" Word of God!

The Bible can be trusted because it is SURE... It can be trusted with absolute steadfastness and assurance.

- ☐ In II Peter 1:16-21 Peter lets us know that the WRITTEN words of God are **more sure** than even the AUDIBLE voice of God! This is a very critical point in light of the so-called "Christian experiences" so many people have in the 21st century. **Every** "experience" must be placed under the scrutiny and judgment of God's holy, infallible standard which is greater than **any** "experience."

See II Peter 1:16-21 compared with Matthew 17:1-9.

The Bible is completely sufficient because it makes WISE THE SIMPLE... It gives wisdom to those who lack understanding.

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's sufficiency because it makes WISE the SIMPLE.

- ☐ The Bible defines the "simple" as one who lacks UNDERSTANDING.

Proverbs 7:7 – "And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,"

- ☐ The Bible also defines the "simple" as one who is NAIVE or GULLIBLE.

Proverbs 14:15 – "The SIMPLE believeth every word: but the PRUDENT man looketh well to his going."

- ☐ Unlike any and every other source of information on earth, the Word of God alone has the supernatural ability not only to teach facts and information but to impart divine wisdom into the mind and life of otherwise simple people.

II Timothy 3:16-17

Key quote:

"You can be very sophisticated and well-educated, but if you don't know the Bible, God calls you "simple."

"It is the Word of God that makes the simple person wise. How could a commercial fisherman like Peter stand up to challenge the best-educated and most powerful men of his generation? There is only one explanation – the Word of God made the common (simple) man uncommon. No matter what YOUR background, the Bible can make you an individual of great knowledge, wisdom and understanding." – Jeff Adams

Acts 2:5, 14,22-37

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
3. The <u>STATUTES</u> of the LORD. <i>(Psalm 9:8a)</i>	It is <u>RIGHT</u> .	It <u>REJOICES</u> the <u>HEART</u> .

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God's STATUTES.

- ☐ The title "*the statutes of the LORD*" refers to the fact that the Bible is God's ESTABLISHED DECREE that reveals to us His principles and guidelines for living. Because God is the creator of life, and because He alone knows how we must live to glorify Him, the Bible provides us with everything we need to live a godly life.

II Peter 1:3

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's trustworthiness because it is RIGHT.

- ☐ Before we came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, most of us used a very SUBJECTIVE standard for determining what was right and wrong. Psalm 19:8a lets us know, however, that for those of us who are saved, determining what is right and wrong is now very OBJECTIVE. Very simply stated, what God says in His Word about a matter is right, and any and all opinions contrary to His are WRONG!

Psalm 119:128; Romans 3:4

Thirdly, the Bible is "the statutes of the Lord"... It is His ESTABLISHED DECREE that reveals to us His principles and guidelines for living.

The Bible can be trusted because it is RIGHT... It is God's perfect mind and will in all matters of morality.

- ☐ There are two very important reasons that you should never ASSUME that you know what is right without specifically CONSULTING the Word of God:

1) What God says is right is contrary to the WORLD'S WISDOM.

- Remember, we used to “walk according to the course of this world” (Ephesians 2:2). For the most part, that “course” taught us to think according to...

- ❖ RELATIVE STANDARDS

(Something is deemed “right” based upon or compared to something else.)

- ❖ SITUATIONAL ETHICS

(Though something may actually be morally WRONG, it is “RIGHT” in “this” situation.)

- ❖ POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

(Though something may actually be morally RIGHT, because its truth is offensive to some, it is “WRONG” to address it.)

- We must always be certain that our thinking about what is right has not been influenced by the world’s wisdom!

James 4:10

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

John 12:24

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

2) What God says is right is contrary to our NATURAL INCLINATIONS.

- Let’s consider a few examples...

- ❖ God says that the way UP is DOWN. (See James 4:10 in margin)

- ❖ God says that to LIVE we must DIE. (See John 12:24 in margin)

- ❖ God says that it is better to GIVE than to RECEIVE. (See Acts 20:35 in margin)

- ❖ God says that to RECEIVE you must GIVE. (See Luke 6:38 in margin)

- Though the Bible’s instruction may not FEEL right because of our natural inclinations, we have the assurance that it IS right because it is God’s infallible truth.

- We must always be certain that our thinking about what is right has not been influenced by our natural inclinations!

Acts 20:35

“I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Luke 6:38

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible’s sufficiency because it REJOICES the HEART.

- ☐ The world is literally filled with people who are depressed, anxious, fearful, and/or hopeless. For many of them, life becomes nothing more than a frustrating and seemingly endless search for freedom, fulfillment, and happiness. God makes the claim that His Word is the end of the search – for it alone REJOICES the HEART!

The Bible is completely sufficient because it **REJOICES THE HEART...** It produces internal freedom, fulfillment, and happiness.

Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 119:50; Romans 15:4; Psalm 42:11; John 6:63

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
4. The <u>COMMANDMENT</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:8b)	It is <u>PURE</u> .	It <u>ENLIGHTENS</u> the <u>EYES</u> .

Fourthly, the Bible is "the commandment of the Lord"... It is the NON-OPTIONAL ORDERS God has given to man to provide direction concerning all things.

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God's COMMANDMENTS.

- ☐ The title "the commandment of the LORD" refers to the fact that the Bible is the NON-OPTIONAL ORDERS God has given to man to provide DIRECTION concerning all things. The Bible is not a Book of moral POSSIBILITIES or divine SUGGESTIONS, but rather the complete, authoritative, binding MANDATES of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Deuteronomy 5:32; 12:32; II Peter 1:3

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's trustworthiness because it is PURE.

- ☐ The very words of the Bible are **pure** because they are INSPIRED by God.

Proverbs 30:5-6; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21*

**Note: The word "inspiration" comes from two words that literally mean, "God-breathed."*

- ☐ The very words of the Bible are **pure** because they are preserved by God.

Psalm 12:6-7; 119:160; Proverbs 22:20-21; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:17-18; 24:35

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's sufficiency because it ENLIGHTENS the EYES.

- ☐ God makes it abundantly clear throughout His Word that were it not for the power of the Word of God to "enlighten" our "eyes," we could never "see" (understand) the truth God wants us to see, or locate the path upon which he designed us to walk.

Psalm 119:105; 130; Proverbs 6:23; I Corinthians 2:9-10, 13

Key quote:

"Scripture, because of its absolute clarity, brings understanding where there is ignorance, order where there is confusion, and light where there is spiritual and moral darkness. It stands in stark contrast to the muddled musings of unredeemed men, who themselves are blind and unable to discern truth and live righteously. God's Word clearly reveals the blessed, hopeful truths they can never see."

— John MacArthur

The Bible is completely sufficient because it ENLIGHTENS THE EYES... It opens a person's eyes to God's truth and path.

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
5. The <u>FEAR</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:9a)	It is <u>CLEAN</u> .	It <u>ENDURES FOREVER</u> .

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God's FEAR.

- ❑ “*The fear of the LORD*” seems like a strange synonym to use to refer to the Word of God. Many “Christians” today are repulsed by the thought of “fearing” God and seek to explain away the concept by using softer and gentler terms. The fact is, God uses the title “*the fear of the Lord*” in this passage to refer to His Word because the Bible is the very source of CONVICTING WISDOM that God uses to cause us to respond biblically to who He is. The biblical response to who God is is “fear”! Proverbs 9:10 says, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*”
- ❑ The wisdom of man will FLATTER you. It entices you to DEIFY man and HUMANIZE God (i.e. It gives man GOD-LIKE qualities and gives God MAN-LIKE qualities). It entices you to trust your own goodness and to exalt yourself (I Corinthians 2:1-5).

God’s wisdom, on the other hand, will not flatter you — it will “FLATTEN” you! It will enlighten you to the overwhelming awesomeness of the God of the Bible and strike “fear” into the depths of your soul. (See Luke 12:4-5 in the margin)

Comprehending the overwhelming awesomeness of God is one of the ways the Holy Spirit of God reproves us of our **sin**, God’s **righteousness**, and His inevitable **judgment** upon sinners. (See John 16:7-8 in the margin)

It was actually “*the fear of the LORD*,” (the overwhelming awesomeness of who God is) that caused us to respond biblically to Him by calling upon His name for salvation. It is now that same “*fear of the LORD*” that causes those of us who are saved to respond biblically to Him by surrendering ourselves to Him in reverential awe, wonder, and worship.

Fifthly, the Bible is “*the fear of the Lord*”... It is the source of **CONVICTING WISDOM** that God uses to cause us to respond biblically to who He is.

“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”

Luke 12:4-5

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”

John 16:7-8

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible’s trustworthiness because it is CLEAN.

- ❑ The word **clean** has reference to the fact that the Word of God is completely holy, and totally without impurity, defilement, corruption, imperfection, or error. Note the usage of the word **clean** in the following verses...

Leviticus 10:10; Numbers 5:28; Ezekiel 44:23; Isaiah 1:16; II Peter 2:18

- ❑ Because the Word of God itself is **clean**, it is the agent God uses to CLEANSE us and to KEEP us CLEAN.

John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Psalm 119:9-11

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's sufficiency because it ENDURES FOREVER.

The Bible is completely sufficient because it ENDURES FOREVER... it is sufficient and relevant for every generation, culture and age.

- ❑ Though the teaching of the Word of God has been in operation for nearly 2000 years, (and much of it nearly 4000 years!) its principles, precepts, guidelines, and instructions are just as relevant today as the day God breathed them into the holy record of Scripture. Should our Lord's return not be for another 2000 to 4000 years, they will continue to be as applicable, true, and binding because the wisdom that has been revealed through God's clean and perfect Word "*endures for ever*"! It has been and forever will be sufficient for every generation, culture, and age in history.

Psalm 119:89, 152, 160; Ecclesiastes 3:14; I Peter 1:24-25

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	WHY THE BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED	WHAT THE BIBLE DOES
6. The <u>JUDGMENTS</u> of the LORD. (Psalm 19:9b,11)	It is <u>TRUE</u> and <u>RIGHTEOUS</u> .	It provides <u>WARNING</u> and <u>REWARD</u> .

A. We can have complete confidence in any situation of life because we have God's JUDGMENTS.

Sixthly, the Bible is "*the judgments of the Lord*"... It is the DECISIVE VERDICT from the bench(throne) of the Supreme Judge of the earth.

- ❑ The "*judgments of the LORD*" refers to the fact that the Bible is the DECISIVE VERDICT from the bench (i.e. throne) of the Supreme Judge of the earth.

B. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's trustworthiness because it is TRUE and RIGHTEOUS.

- ❑ Though the "*judgments of the LORD*" may sometimes appear harsh, they are always true; and they are always righteous.

Revelation 15:1; 16:1-7

The Bible can be trusted because it is TRUE and RIGHTEOUS... It is unquestionably truthful and holy.

- ❑ Because of the apparent "harshness" of God's judgments, there may be times that worldly wisdom and our natural inclinations (discussed on page 48 and 49) influence our thinking and cause us to unknowingly compromise the truth of the Word of God. For example:

- The Bible places a priority upon LOVE.

John 13:35; I Corinthians 13:1-3, 13

HOWEVER! We must **NEVER COMPROMISE TRUTH** for the sake of LOVE!

II John

❖ *Note: The book of II John is about a very loving lady who was so "loving" she even embraced false teachers. John writes to teach her that love has BOUNDARIES.*

❖ What does John say is the basis of his love for this special lady in the very first sentence of his letter to her?

"...whom I love IN THE TRUTH."

- ❖ Note John's emphasis of love's inseparable connection to truth in the first four verses. Underline the word "TRUTH" in your Bible in verses 1-4.
- ❖ What does John say is a danger when our love is not bound by truth in verse 8?

We may lose REWARDS!

- ❖ How do God's "true and righteous judgments" in verses 9 and 10 command us to respond when approached by false teachers?

We are not to allow them into our HOUSE or even to say "GOD BLESS YOU!"

- ❖ According to worldly wisdom and natural inclinations, does that response seem "harsh" or "unloving?"
- ❖ If we do not allow our love to be bound by "the true and righteous judgments" of God, what does God say is the result in verse 11?

We become a "PARTAKER of his (the false teacher's) EVIL deeds!"

- The Bible places a priority upon UNITY.

Ephesians 4:2-3; I Corinthians 1:10

HOWEVER! We must NEVER COMPROMISE **TRUTH** for the sake of UNITY!

Key quote:

"Today there is much talk among Christians about the need for unity. Wherever Christians gather you can hear someone saying, "If only all the believers could get together and agree, then the world would sit up and take notice! Then the devil would be running scared! Then there would be real revival!" The whole "Ecumenical Movement" is based on such a conclusion.

I must admit the thought sounds wonderful to have all those different denominations (and "non"-denominations) in love and fellowship with one another – that would be something, wouldn't it? Ah... but don't hold your breath... it can't happen. There'll always be a couple of real Christians around to spoil it!

"What?!" you say, "How could real Christians spoil it? Wouldn't they be the very ones who would be the most loving and ready to unite?" Oh yes! True believers are full of love— love for God, love for their brothers and sisters, love for souls – in fact, love would be the very thing that would make them oppose a mass move of unity.

"What?!" you say again. "Why that's the most absurd thing I've ever heard! How could love keep them from wanting to get together with everyone else who confesses to love God? You're not going to get me to believe that people with such deep love wouldn't just love to see all the churches and professing Christians come together in unity? Why, what could they love more than that??"

For one thing, they love the truth! Yep, they're pretty attached to it — those true believers can even seem right stubborn and ornery at times— the way they stick to the truth.

Some people have the craziest ideas— they want to try to do what only God can do. "Let's play Holy Spirit". That's what they seem to be saying. They think that if they can just get everyone to quit arguing about their different doctrinal beliefs, then unity is right around the corner. "Let's just all try and fellowship and talk about those things in the Bible that we all can agree on." There's only one problem with that kind of thinking—isn't the Bible all true? How can we just find the lowest common denominator to which all Christians can agree, and label the rest of God's Word "unessential for unity?"

— Keith Green

C. We can have complete confidence in the Bible's sufficiency because it provides WARNING and REWARD.

The Bible is completely sufficient because it provides WARNING and REWARD... It provides God's specifications to obtain protection and blessing.

- Most major purchases (i.e. Car, appliance, etc.) are accompanied by an owner's manual. The owner's manual serves a dual purpose. Negatively, it provides WARNINGS concerning the misuse or improper use of the product. Positively, it provides the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions so that a person may gain the full BENEFITS from the proper use of the product.

Similarly, the Bible is God's "owner's manual" for our lives. Because God is the Creator of life and has specifically designed life to function according to His specifications, the Bible serves a dual purpose in our lives. Negatively, it provides WARNINGS to protect us against temptation, sin, false teaching, error, and anything else that would threaten our spiritual well-being. Positively, it provides us with all of God's specifications for living in the full BENEFIT and BLESSING (reward) of life as He intends.

Psalm 19:11; Ezekiel 33:7; Psalm 119:1-2

AN OVERVIEW OF GOD'S DESCRIPTIVE TITLES FOR THE BIBLE AND THEIR MEANING

- The Bible is God's LAW... It is His AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD.
- The Bible is God's TESTIMONY... It is His TRUTHFUL DECLARATIONS.
- The Bible is God's STATUTES... It is His ESTABLISHED DECREE.
- The Bible is God's COMMANDMENT... It is His NON-OPTIONAL ORDERS.
- The Bible is God's FEAR... It is His CONVICTING WISDOM.
- The Bible is God's JUDGMENTS... It is His DECISIVE VERDICTS.

AN OVERVIEW OF GOD'S DESCRIPTIVE WORDS OF THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE BIBLE AND THEIR MEANING

- The Bible is PERFECT... It is man's COMPLETE & FINAL authority.
- The Bible is SURE... It is to be trusted with absolute STEADFASTNESS and ASSURANCE.
- The Bible is RIGHT... It is God's perfect mind and will in all matters of MORALITY.
- The Bible is PURE... It is the INSPIRED and PRESERVED Word(s) of God.
- The Bible is CLEAN... It is completely without CORRUPTION or ERROR.
- The Bible is TRUE and RIGHTEOUS... It is unquestionably TRUTHFUL and HOLY.

AN OVERVIEW OF GOD'S DESCRIPTIVE PHRASES OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE AND THEIR MEANING

The Bible CONVERTS THE SOUL ... It changes a person from the INSIDE OUT.

The Bible makes WISE THE SIMPLE... It gives WISDOM to those who lack UNDERSTANDING.

The Bible REJOICES THE HEART... It produces internal freedom, fulfillment, and happiness.

The Bible ENLIGHTENS THE EYES... It opens a person's eyes to God's truth and path.

The Bible ENDURES FOREVER... It is sufficient and relevant for every generation, culture, and age.

The Bible provides WARNING
and REWARD... It provides God's specifications to obtain protection & blessings.

The Importance And Supremacy Of The Bible

Section C

1. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WAS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USED TO PROVIDE OUR SALVATION.

☐ The Word of God INITIATED our FAITH.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we were saved by grace through faith. Romans 10:17 lets us know that the faith that caused us to receive God's grace in salvation came as a result of our hearing the Word of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:17; II Timothy 3:15

☐ The Word of God INDUCED the NEW BIRTH.

Our birth into our earthly family was by the CORRUPTIBLE seed of our father. I Peter 1:23 lets us know that our new birth into God's family was through our heavenly Father's INCORRUPTIBLE seed. That seed is the WORD of GOD.

I Peter 1:23; John 1:11-13

☐ The Word of God is INDISPENSABLE in the GOSPEL.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 lets us know that the gospel ("good news") that brought about our salvation is comprised of three essential parts...

I Corinthians 15:1-4

- Christ DIED for our sins.
- Christ was BURIED.
- Christ ROSE from the dead.

What is often overlooked in these verses, however, is that there is actually a FOURTH essential part of the gospel. It wasn't enough that Christ simply died, was buried and rose again. To actually be the gospel that could provide our salvation, Christ's death, burial, and resurrection all had to be precisely "ACCORDING to the SCRIPTURES."

John 19:24, 28-30

1. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WAS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USED TO PROVIDE OUR SALVATION.

The Word of God initiated our faith.

"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

The Word of God induced the new birth.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God." (I Peter 1:23)

The Word of God is indispensable in the gospel. (Christ's death, burial, and resurrection had to be "...according to the Scriptures.")

2. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USES TO OVERCOME OUR PAST.

2. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USES TO OVERCOME OUR PAST.

OUR SINFUL PAST	SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION, II CORINTHIANS 5:17	OUR PRESENT PROBLEM	PRACTICAL TRANSFORMATION, I PETER 1:13-16	OUR DAILY ANSWER
1. In the past we walked according to the <u>COURSE</u> of this <u>WORLD</u> . (Ephesians 2:2a)		1. We still live in the <u>WORLD</u> . (John 17:11)		1. We must allow the <u>WORD</u> of <u>GOD</u> to <u>SET</u> us <u>APART</u> from the world. (John 17:11-17)
2. In the past we walked according to the <u>PRINCE</u> of the <u>POWER</u> of the air. (Ephesians 2:2b)		2. We still have an <u>ENEMY</u> . (I Peter 5:8)		2. We must allow the <u>WORD</u> of <u>GOD</u> to <u>OVERCOME</u> our enemy. (I John 2:12-14)
3. In the past we fulfilled the <u>DESIRE</u> of our <u>FLESH</u> . (Ephesians 2:3a)		3. We still have our <u>BODY</u> . (Philippians 3:20-21)		3. We must allow the <u>SPIRIT</u> of God to take the <u>WORD</u> of God and <u>MORTIFY</u> our flesh. (Colossians 3:1-5,16 Romans 8:13)
4. In the past we fulfilled the <u>DESIRE</u> S of our <u>MIND</u> . (Ephesians 2:3b)	4. We still have our <u>BRAIN</u> . (Romans 12:2)	4. We must allow the <u>SPIRIT</u> of God to take the <u>WORD</u> of God and <u>RENEW</u> our mind. (Colossians 3:7-10,16 Romans 12:1-2)		

3. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USES TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

3. THE BIBLE IS SUPREMEY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS THE INSTRUMENT GOD USES TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

- The Bible is very clear that all of creation has been designed by God for the purpose of bringing Him GLORY.

Psalms 148:1-14; Luke 19:37-40; Revelation 4:11, 5:13

God created all things to bring Him glory.

- ❑ As human beings, however, we have a privilege unique to us that sets us apart from all of the rest of God’s creation. Unlike the sun, moon, stars, rocks and every other creature, we alone have the distinct privilege of bringing glory to God out of an intimate, personal, love relationship with the Holy, Creator Himself! Let’s take a brief journey through the Word of God to catch a glimpse of God’s heart in terms of His desire to have a relationship with humans.

Unlike the rest of God’s creation, human beings have the privilege of bringing glory to God out of an intimate, personal, love relationship with Him.

PERSON	PASSAGE	PLACE	PURPOSE
<u>ADAM</u> & <u>EVE</u>	Genesis 3:8	In the <u>GARDEN</u> .	I want to “ <u>WALK</u> ” with you.
<u>MOSES</u>	Exodus 24:12	On the <u>MOUNTAIN</u> .	I want to “ <u>BE</u> ” with you.
<u>EZEKIEL</u>	Ezekiel 3:22	In the <u>PLAIN</u> .	I want to “ <u>TALK</u> ” with you.
<u>SOLOMON</u> & the Shulamite <u>WOMAN</u>	Song of Solomon 7:11	In the <u>FIELD</u> .	I want to be “ <u>INTIMATE</u> ” with you.
<u>ISRAEL</u>	Isaiah 26:20	In my <u>CHAMBER</u> .	I want to be “ <u>ALONE</u> ” with you.
The <u>CHURCH</u>	Revelation 4:1; I Thessalonians 4:17	In <u>HEAVEN</u> .	I want to “ <u>LIVE</u> ” with you.

- ❑ As was stated in the introduction to this lesson, the key to every relationship is COMMUNICATION. Through our words we communicate our thoughts, our desires, our plans, our purposes, and our will. Actually, through our words we reveal who we really are! In Matthew 12:34, Jesus said, “... *for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*” The Bible is really the words God has spoken to man out of the abundance of His heart. Through His word(s), God intends to reveal Himself to us, and to communicate with us everything that is necessary for us to enjoy the intimate, personal, love relationship He designed us to share with Him.

God reveals Himself to us and communicates with us everything necessary to develop our relationship with Him through His Word.

- ❑ There are at least three key things in God’s heart that He desires from us in our relationship with Him.

God desires three things from our relationship with Him:

- God wants us to LOVE Him.
Mark 12:30
- God wants us to KNOW Him.
Jeremiah 24:7
- God wants us to WORSHIP Him.
John 4:23

He wants us to love Him.

He wants us to know Him.

He wants us to worship Him.

- ❑ In order to fulfill those three desires of God’s heart, there are three key things we must understand.

To fulfill these desires, there are three key things we must understand:

KEY #1

It is impossible to truly LOVE God apart from the WORD of God.

In both the Old and New Testaments God specifically referred to David as “a MAN after His own HEART.” (I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) The Book of Psalms is literally filled with the expression of David’s heart for the Lord. You would expect that “the man after God’s own heart” would constantly be communicating his love for the Lord. Actually, there are only two times David does so! (Psalms 18:1; 116:1)

Key #1
It is impossible to truly love God apart from the Word of God.

Turn to Psalm 119, however, and make a startling discovery by filling in the blanks.

Psalm 119:47

“And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have _____.”

Psalm 119:48

“My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have _____; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”

Psalm 119:97

“O how _____ I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.”

Psalm 119:113

“I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I _____.”

Psalm 119:119

“Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I _____ thy testimonies.”

Psalm 119:127

“Therefore I _____ thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.”

Psalm 119:140

“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant _____ it.”

Psalm 119:159

“Consider how I _____ thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.”

Psalm 119:163

“I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I _____.”

Psalm 119:167

“My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I _____ them exceedingly.”

The lesson to learn ...

God is letting us know that we cannot separate loving HIM from loving HIS Word! (John 1:1!)

KEY #2

It is impossible to truly KNOW God apart from the WORD of God.

God doesn't just want us to know ABOUT Him, He wants us to know HIM! This is what God means when the Bible talks about knowing God's "NAME." The "name" of God in Scripture is used in reference to the complete composite of God's attributes and the sum total of all that He is.

1 Kings 8:43; Psalm 9:10; 76:1; 91:14

God says some very monumental things about His name.

Nehemiah 9:5 – “His **name** is GLORIOUS, and is EXALTED above all BLESSING and praise.”

Philippians 2:9-11 – “Wherefore God also hath highly EXALTED him, and given him a **name** which is ABOVE every **name**: That at the **name** of Jesus every knee should BOW... And that every tongue should CONFESS that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the GLORY of God the Father.”

Key #2
It is impossible to truly
know God apart from
the Word of God.

Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be SAVED.”

In short, it is obvious that there is nothing that could ever be more exalted in the mind and heart of God than His NAME!

Based on the Scriptures we just read, do you agree or disagree with that statement? Agree Disagree

Now read Psalm 138:1-2 in the margin, paying close attention to what the psalmist says about the connection of the WORD of God to the NAME of God.

What does the psalmist say that God has magnified *above* all of His name? HIS WORD How could that be?

“I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. ² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Psalm 138:1-2

The lesson to learn...

God is letting us know that He has exalted His Word above His own name because the only way we can truly know His name is THROUGH His WORD!

KEY #3

It is impossible to truly WORSHIP God apart from the WORD of God.

We saw in John 4:23 that God is seeking “true” worship and worshippers. Obviously then, there is such a thing as “false” worship and worshippers. God makes clear that true worship has two distinguishing characteristics:

Key #3

It is impossible to truly worship God apart from the Word of God.

❖ True worship is “in SPIRIT.”

That is, it is a response from and that flows out of our innermost being. True worship, then, includes our intellect, our will and our emotions. True worship is possible only when the spirit of MAN is CONTROLLED by the Spirit of GOD.

Romans 8:16-27; Philippians 3:3

❖ True worship is “in TRUTH.”

Jesus made very clear what the “truth” is. “Truth” as He defines it “IS” the WORD of GOD (John 17:17 – “...thy WORD is TRUTH”). As stated above, worship is a response from and that flows out of our innermost being, but the response of true worship is never self-initiated, self-generated, or self-styled. True worship is the response of our hearts to the “TRUTH” of the WORD of GOD! This is a very important point because “worship” has become a buzz-word in Christian circles in the 21st century. Much of what takes place today under the heading of “worship” is not TRUE worship because it has no BIBLICAL BASIS, and/or is OUTSIDE of the boundaries God has prescribed in His Word.

Matthew 15:8-9; II Samuel 6:1-15; I Samuel 15:1-23

The lesson to learn...

God is letting us know that though true worship is that which flows freely out of man’s SPIRIT, it is always a RESPONSE to God’s TRUTH and it is always REGULATED by God’s truth...the Word of God!

Why Is The Bible So Supremely Important?

1. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** it would be impossible to possess the faith to receive God's grace for salvation.
2. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** there would be no power to bring about the new birth.
3. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** we would not be able to overcome the enemies that used to hold us captive in our sin.
4. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** we would be without communication from God.
5. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** we would be incapable of loving God.
6. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** we would be incapable of knowing God.
7. **WITHOUT THE BIBLE** we would be incapable of worshipping God.

Pulling it all together...

In this lesson we have seen that the Bible is a supernatural Book because it is the revelation of our supernatural God.

As we approach the Bible intellectually, we find that God put the Bible together in such a fashion that there could be no doubt that He orchestrated its construction.

As we approach the Bible spiritually, we find that God so allows us to experience the effect of its working in our lives that there could be no doubt of its transforming power.

As we approach the Bible relationally, we find that God communicates with us, deepening our relationship with Him, leaving no doubt that it is, in fact, the revelation of Himself.

The Bible is, in deed, the single-most incredible and supernatural commodity on this entire planet!