

THE WORD OF GOD

One thing that separates Christianity from every other religion in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. This absolute authority is called the Bible, or "***The Word of God.***" No other book ever written can compare to the Bible. The Bible is the name commonly used to designate the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The word Bible actually comes from a Greek word meaning "*book,*" and the Bible is "*The Book.*"

The Bible was written by forty different authors, on three different continents, in three different languages, over a period of about fifteen hundred years. It is totally accurate in all matters of science, history, and prophecy, and every other issue of life that it deals with. It is completely accurate and without error or contradiction.

The Bible has been called "*God's love letter*" to His human creation. It reveals spiritual truth that man could not know otherwise. Without the Bible man would not know where he came from, why he is here, and where he is going. Everything we know in the spiritual realm, we know because God has told us in the Bible. It is only through "***The Word of God***" that man can know of the righteousness of God, the sinfulness of man, the existence of Heaven and Hell, and the way of salvation which is in Jesus Christ alone. Through creation man can see evidence of the existence of God. He can see evidence of God's great power and infinite wisdom. But, it is only through "***The Word of God***" that man can know of God's great love, and mercy, and grace.

Everything we need to know for this life, as well as the life hereafter, is recorded for us in the Bible. It is to be our only rule of faith and practice. Consider the following quote concerning "***The Word of God.***"

"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 charter.

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

---Anonymous

The purpose of this study is to help give you a better understanding of the basics of "***The Word of God,***" how it came down from God to man, and how it relates to your everyday life.

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS PERFECT.

A. It Has Been Perfectly Inspired.

1. The word "*inspiration* " literally means "*God-breathed.*"

a. This word tells us that God superintended the very writing of His Word. In other words, God is the One who caused men to write the Bible.

b. How much of the Bible (*i.e. Scripture*) is given by inspiration of God? (*II Timothy 3:16*)

c. God used holy men of old to write the Bible. Who were they moved by (*i.e. controlled*)? (*II Peter 1:21*)

2. Since God is the One who inspired the Bible we can be assured of its complete and total accuracy.

a. What did Jesus say that God's Word is? (*John 17:17*)

b. David referred to the Word of God by two different names. What were they? (*Psalms 19:7*)

c. What two things did David say the Word of God is? (*Psalms 19:7*)

B. It Has Been Perfectly Preserved.

1. God is the One who promises to preserve His Word.

a. How long did David say that God would preserve His Word? (*Psalms 12:6-7*)

b. How long did David say God's Word was settled in heaven? (*Psalms 119:89*)

c. What did David say he knew concerning God's Word? (*Psalms 119:152*)

2. God did not inspire His Word and then lose it.

a. What did Isaiah say that the Word of God would do? (*Isaiah 40:8*)

b. What did Jesus say that the Word of God would not do? (*Matthew 24:35*)

c. What three things did Peter say the Word of God would do forever? (*I Peter 1:23-25*)

II. THE WORD OF GOD IS PROFITABLE.

A. God Gave His Word To Help Us, Not Hurt Us.

1. Paul said that the Word of God is profitable for four different things. What are they? (*II Timothy 3:16*)

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

2. How does this work in our daily lives?

a. Doctrine tells us what is right, reproof tells us what is not right; correction tells us how to get it right; and instruction in righteousness tells us how to keep it right.

b. Next, Paul tells us the purpose for this. *"That the man of God may be _____
(Complete) thoroughly _____
(Fully equipped) unto all good works."* (II Timothy 3:17)

B. The Word Of God Is Our Spiritual Food.

1. What kind of nourishment is the Bible compared to in the following verses?

- a. (Luke 4:4) _____
- b. (I Peter 2:2) _____
- c. (Hebrews 5:12-14) _____

2. The Word of God ought to be our most precious possession.

- a. Because David delighted so much in the Word of God, what did he do? (Psalms 1:2) _____
- b. What did David say that the Word of God should be desired above? What did he say that it is sweeter than? (Psalms 19:10) _____
- c. What did he promise to those who keep the Word of God? (Psalms 19:11) _____

III. THE WORD OF GOD IS POWERFUL.

A. This Power Is Seen By What The Word Of God Is Compared To.

1. A light, or a lamp. (Psalms 119:105)

a. *"Thy word is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____
unto my path."*

b. Light dispels darkness, and illuminates the path upon which man is to travel.

2. A mirror. (James 1:23-25)

- a. What is the primary purpose of a mirror? _____
- b. Like a mirror, the Word of God reveals man, not as he thinks he is, but as he really is.

3. Incorruptible seed. (I Peter 1:23)

- a. "Being born again not of _____
but of _____, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth
forever."
- b. Like seed, the Word of God, when properly planted, brings forth life and fruit.

4. A two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12)

- a. "For the word of God is _____, and _____, and _____
than any two-edged sword...."
- b. Like a sword, the Word of God has the ability to penetrate and expose the inner heart
of man

5. Fire. (Jeremiah 20:9)

- a. "But His word was in mine _____ as a _____
shut up in my bones...."
- b. Like fire, the Word of God can burn away impurities in a heart and life so that only
the purest part remains.

6. Hammer. (Jeremiah 23:29)

- a. "Is not my word like as a _____? saith the Lord; and like a _____
that breaketh the _____ in pieces?"
- b. Like a hammer, the Word of God has the power to break even the hardest heart.

7. Water. (Ephesians 5:25-26)

- a. What did Paul say that Christ would use in order to sanctify and cleanse His church?

- b. Like water, The Word of God cleanses and refreshes.

B. This Power Is Seen By What The Word Of God Can Do For Us.**1. We are saved by the Word of God.**

- a. "Being _____, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by
the _____, which liveth and abideth forever." (I Peter
1:23)
- b. What does James say the Word of God is able to do? (James 1:21) _____

2. We are strengthened by the Word of God.

- a. "My soul melteth for heaviness: _____
thou me according unto thy _____." (Psalms 119:28)
- b. What did John say was the reason the young men he wrote to were strong, and able to
overcome the wicked one? (I John 2:14) _____

3. We are cleansed by the Word of God.

a. How does a person cleanse his way? (*Psalms 119:9*) _____

b. Why should we hide the Word of God in our hearts? (*Psalm 119:11*) _____

4. We are comforted by the Word of God.

a. What did David say the Word of God caused him to do? (*Psalm 119:49*) _____

b. David said the Word of God had quickened him, and comforted him in what? (*Psalms 119:50*) _____

Conclusion: The Bible is more than just a book with a cover and some pages. It is “***The Word of God,***” and we need to love it, read it, study it, memorize it, meditate upon it, and obey it. Like Job, we should esteem His Word more than our necessary food. (*Job 23:12*)