



## **God's Inspired Word**

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."**

## Hiding it in your Heart.

## Memory Verse

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## God's Inspired Word

### 1. Why is the Bible so important in our lives?

- **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:**"

- In this verse alone we see that the Scriptures are for meeting our every need as Christians.
- What is doctrine?
  - Doctrine is what we believe. Like salvation, God-head, local church, two ordinances of the church, hell for the lost and Heaven for the saved, and etc....

### Titus 1:9

**"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."**

- What is reproof?
  - The Scriptures will bring a conviction, a bringing to the light, or exposing a fault or a sin in our lives.

### Proverbs 1:23

**"Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you."**

- What is correction?
  - Restoration to an upright or right state. Meaning to bring someone back from their sins and to a right place before God. In other words to discipline or to punish for wrongdoing.

### Hebrews 12:6

**"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."**

- What does it mean to be instructed in righteousness?
  - Education or training.... meaning that the Scriptures are all that we need to grow and be trained to do what's right before God.

### Proverbs 4:1

**"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."**

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## **Ephesians 6:4**

**"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."**

## **Hebrews 12:7-8**

**If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."**

## **2. How can we know that our Bible and our faith in God is the true one?**

- We will examine the Book upon which our faith stands. We begin by looking at what the Bible says about itself.

## **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:"**

- What is inspiration? Let us look to the Bible for the answers to these questions...
  - Does the Bible claim to be the Inspired Word of God?
  - **2 Timothy 3:16** states that, "All scripture is given by **inspiration of God**. "**Inspiration**" here is from a Greek word meaning "**God breathed**". Simply put, every word of the Bible is straight from the **mouth of God**.

## **Matthew 4:4**

**"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

- God." Some ask. "But didn't men write the Bible?" Peter answers that the Bible was written down by men who were moved or guided by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God.

## **2 Peter 1:20**

**"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."** [meaning, no passage was the writer's own personal opinion].

## **2 Peter 1:21**

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**"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man:"** (meaning, man did not decide what would be written in the Bible) **"but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**

- Any literate person can easily dictate a letter and watch to be certain that every word is correct. Is not an Almighty God capable of insuring that His chosen men accurately wrote His words?
- Some are willing to accept that parts of the Bible are inspired, but not that every statement is absolute truth. The Bible itself declares that the very words, and even the letters are directly from God Himself.

## **Matthew 5:18**

**"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."**

- Any attack on the Bible is actually an attack on the character of God. If the Bible is God's Word and there is a single statement that is not true within its pages, that would mean that God was either mistaken or lying.

## **Matthew 24:35**

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."**

- God is Truth and cannot lie therefore His Word is absolute truth.
- He is all knowing and all powerful and therefore can easily reveal, inspire, and preserve His Own perfect Word. You can trust the Bible!

## **1 Peter 1:25**

**"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."**

- The Bible is the world's only perfect book. It is God's blueprint for our lives. You and I are wise to make it the foundation of our lives and the basis for our decisions.

**1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."**

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## The Prophetic Accuracy of the Bible

### 1. Can we prove that the Bible is true by the Bible?

- Today, we begin examining whether there is objective evidence to prove that the Bible is God's Word. Today's test is proposed in Isaiah 41:22-23. Only a true message from God can predict the future.

#### Isaiah 41:22

"Let them **bring them forth**, and **shew us what shall happen**: let them shew **the former things, what they be**, that we may **consider them**, and know the **latter end of them**; or **declare us things for to come**."

- It is good and right for us to go back and look at the things that the LORD through his prophets prophesied were to come to pass, and to look at how He brought them to pass.

#### Isaiah 43:9

Let all the nations **be gathered together**, and let the **people be assembled**: who among them can **declare this**, and shew us **former things**? let them bring **forth their witnesses**, that they may be justified: or **let them hear, and say, It is truth**.

- It is also needful for us to get together on a regular basis to look at what God has done in the Bible over and over again – through church services, Bible studies, and fellowshiping with fellow Christians.

**Thank God that all His promises are true. Ask Him for the faith to always trust His personal promises (of salvation, answered prayer, etc.).**

Claim a Promise from the Bible...

#### Matthew 6:33

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

### 2. How does the Bible stand up to this test of perfect prophecy?

- A full one-fourth of the Bible was written as predictive prophecy. **Over 2,000 fulfilled** prophecies are found in the Old Testament alone. If each element of these prophecies which had to be

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individually fulfilled is counted, there are some **10,000 fulfilled prophecies! How many prophecies have failed? Not one!**

- **Jesus fulfilled 333 prophecies** during His earthly life.
  - There are **over 100 fulfilled prophecies** concerning ancient Babylon. **Daniel 11 contains over 100 fulfilled prophecies.**
  - The Bible accurately predicted the Babylonian, Greek, and Roman Empires (**Daniel 2 & 8**).
  - **Consider this small sampling of fulfilled prophecies:**
  - Israel would spend 400 years in bondage in Egypt and then return to Canaan after God judged their captors (**Genesis 15:13-16**).
  - Israel would spend 70 years in bondage in Babylon (**Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10**).
  - Israel would be scattered among the nations, but would return to their land in the last days - fulfilled in 1948 (**Deuteronomy 28:25,64; 30:3; Ezekiel 36:24**).
  - The conquests of Alexander the Great and the fact that his Greek Empire would not be passed on to his son, but would be divided into four parts at his death (**Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22; 11:1-4**).
  - Cyrus of the Medo-Persian Empire is prophesied by name over 100 years before his birth as the King who would allow Israel to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple after the Babylonian captivity (**Isaiah 44:28**).
  - King Josiah of Judah is prophesied by name (some 350 years before his birth) as the king who would destroy Jeroboam's false altar (**1 Kings 13:1-2**).
  - Jeremiah predicted (600 BC) the next nine areas of expansion for the city of Jerusalem (**Jeremiah 31:38-40**). Expansion into the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> areas did not take place until the years from 1900 into the 1960's.
3. To put this into perspective, let us examine a few of the holy books of other religions. The Hindu Vedas have ZERO fulfilled prophecies. The Book of Mormon has ZERO fulfilled prophecies. The Muslim Koran has

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one self-fulfilling prophecy - Mohammed said he would return to Mecca and he did.

- We see through this that the Bible has been the only book in history that has stood the test of times and seen all its prophecies fulfilled.
- This means that the prophecies that are prophesied for the future will come to pass.

Let's review to get a few facts into your memory...

1. A full one-fourth of the Bible was written as predictive prophecy.
2. The Old Testament has over 2,000 fulfilled prophecies, including some 10,000 individual elements of the fulfilled prophecies!
3. Jesus fulfilled 333 prophecies in his life and ministry.
4. Medo-Persian king prophesied by name 100 years before his birth as the king who would allow the Temple to be rebuilt: Cyrus
5. Name of the Judean king predicted three hundred and fifty years in advance before his birth: Josiah

**When science seems to contradict the Bible what are we to remember first?**

**Whenever the Bible seems to be contradicted by science, remember how often "science" has been wrong before.**

1. Are there scientific facts stated in Scripture which could not have been known by the human authors of the Bible?

Let us examine just 5 of these scientific facts found in the Bible.

1. The fact that life only comes from life - Genesis 1:11-12, 21-25. For centuries, it seemed obvious to science that life spontaneously arose from rotting substances, stagnant water, and moist soil. The scientific fact that life arises only from life was not discovered until 1862 and 1865 when Louis Pasteur and Johann Mendel disproved spontaneous generation and proved

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the laws of genetics respectively. The Bible declared this fact in its first chapter, thirty-four centuries before man made this "scientific discovery". In fact, the theory of evolution is actually still based upon a denial of this fact. Remember, Charles Darwin published his theory of evolution in 1859, before spontaneous generation was disproved and before the laws of genetics were understood.

2. The fact that the Earth is round ..."the circle of the earth" - Isaiah 40:22. The Bible records this fact twenty-two centuries before man made the "discovery".

3. The fact the Earth hangs in space upon nothing - Job 26:7. God revealed this scientific fact thirty-three centuries before man made this "discovery".

4. The fact that the stars are innumerable - Genesis 15:5. This scientific fact was revealed by God twenty-one centuries before man made this "discovery".

5. The medical facts concerning infection and sanitation. The Law of Moses laid down extensive, specific and accurate regulations for how to recognize, isolate, and cleanse infection and how to control the diseases that are spread through unsanitary conditions. These regulations contain none of the ignorant nonsense taught in the 15th century B.C. colleges of Egypt where Moses was trained and are thirty centuries ahead of modern man's findings. The Bible not only contains these but also many other advanced scientific facts.

## **-Our Amazing Bible - The Greatest Book of All Time**

- The Bible is the greatest book in the history of the world.
- It is the number-one best seller of all time. Not counting the untold millions of copies which have been printed to be given away freely, it has outsold the next top five books combined (and four of those five are books about the Bible).

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- It was the first major book ever translated from one language to another and has been translated into more languages than any other book.
- It was the first book ever printed.
- The first act of the Congress of the United States was to print Bibles.
- The Bible has inspired more books than any other book.
- It contains the oldest written history in existence and was the first book carried into and read from outer space.

## **It is indeed an amazing book, a book authored by God himself.**

- The Bible was written over a time span of 15 centuries, in three different languages, on three different continents, by some 40 inspired authors.
- It was written during times of war and peace, from palaces and prisons, by Jews and Gentiles, by rich and poor, by kings and farmers, and by Jewish rabbis and Christian evangelists.
- Yet amazingly enough, it is one consistent story from beginning to end... with a supernatural unity that could only be achieved through divine inspiration. Contrary to what some skeptics ignorantly claim, the Bible never contradicts itself and it has unified themes that flow from Genesis on through to Revelation.
- The Bible has come down to us through a history of sacrifice and blood.
- In A.D. 303, after a fierce persecution, Roman Emperor Diocletian erected a column over a burned Bible with the words, "Extinct is the Name of Christian." But ten years later Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
- Early translators of the Bible were violently persecuted and put to death.
- Possessing a Bible is still a crime today in many countries. Governments, religions and skeptics have all attacked the Bible and yet it stands unshaken.
- French skeptic Voltaire once declared that the Bible would not exist in another hundred years. After his death, Voltaire's house and printing press were used to print Bibles.
- The Bible is the most well-attested book of the ancient world, with over 5,600 ancient Greek manuscripts. If all these were lost, we still have almost 20,000 ancient manuscripts in other languages. If all these were

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lost, we still could duplicate every verse from the 36,000 quotes by the Church Fathers in the first three centuries.

**You can trust that the words of your Bible are the words originally given by God!**

## **The Book that Changed the World**

The Bible has changed the world more than any other book in history. Consider how it has radically changed the world in these critical areas -

The Sanctity of:

- 1) Human Life - While human life was and is considered cheap or worthless in many parts of the world, wherever the Bible touches, life is viewed as sacred.
- 2) Marriage - Before the Bible influenced the ancient world, marriage and divorce scores of times was common. Wherever the Bible goes, the nature of the family changes.
- 3) Womanhood and Childhood - Once traded, sold and even killed as mere property, women and children are elevated to a sacred value and worth by the Bible. Christian cultures protect their women and children. Other cultures abuse them.
- 4) The Sanctity of Human Freedom - Most of the world has and does live under tyranny and despotism. Where the Bible goes, freedom follows! As the Bible fades in influence, these values disappear.

**Let the Bible change you like it has changed the world.**

**Psalm 33:4-6; 56:10; 68:11; 105:8; John 5:24**

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Today, there are over 100 Bible translations in the English language alone.

- In many languages, there is only one translation and many languages do not yet even have a Bible.
- For those who speak a language where more than one translation is available, a choice must be made concerning which translation should be used.
- Sincere Christians with pure motives advocate various translations.
- However, all translations are not equal.

## **Here are two key issues to consider when choosing a Bible.**

1. The first issue is the Translation Method.
  - Most modern Bibles are translated with the purpose of being as easy to read as possible. This goal sounds good, but accuracy should never be sacrificed for readability.
  - Most modern versions re-word or paraphrase the main thoughts of each verse (dynamic equivalency).
  - These Bibles are easy to understand because they are almost commentaries, but this introduces too much danger that the opinions of the translators will be added to the text.
  - The belief that every word is inspired leads to the conclusion that we should use a Bible where the words themselves are translated as literally as possible (formal equivalency).
2. The second issue is the Translation Text. There are essentially two different versions of the Greek New Testament in existence.
  - The traditional, majority text is based upon thousands of ancient manuscripts from a great variety of geographic areas and many different centuries. There are 5,210 manuscripts which are considered the traditional, majority or Antioch text.
  - This was the accepted text of true Christian churches throughout the history of Christendom.
  - The newer, critical, "minority text" is based upon a small handful of manuscripts from limited geographic locations, which were accepted by modern scholars as superior, essentially because they were once believed to be older. This claim to superiority based upon age is no

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longer accurate now that manuscript discoveries have revealed that both manuscript types undebatably go back to at least the 2nd century. There are only 45 manuscripts that make up the minority text or otherwise known as the "Alexandrian text".

Since manuscripts of both text types are equally ancient, the wisest course is to trust the Greek Text trusted by Christian churches for the bulk of Christian history, which was the basis for almost all translations into other languages from the 2nd through the end of the 19th centuries.

Modern textual criticism is based upon the theory that the true text of the New Testament was lost for over 15 centuries and had to be rediscovered at the end of the 1800's from a small handful of manuscripts of a type that had not been used by Christian churches since the 3rd century.

By contrast, Scripture declares that God will preserve His Word in ALL generations (Psalm 12:6-7; Matthew 5:18).

**Psalm 12:6-7: Matthew 5:18; Psalm 119:89, 160, Mark 13:31, Revelation 22:19**

## What Bible translation should we use?

**Question:** What is wrong with the New King James Version (NKJV)? All it does is modernize the words of the King James Bible, right? Why should I read the King James and not the helpful New King James?

**Answer:** The New King James is **not** a King James Bible. It changed thousands of words, ruined valuable verses, and when not agreeing with the King James Bible, it has instead **copied** the perverted NIV, NASV or RSV. And this you must know: those who translated the NKJV did **not** believe God perfectly preserved His words!

## Changed Words Means Changed Meanings

We know that Bible versions disagree on how to translate certain words. Here is an example: Is Jesus God's "Son" or God's "servant"? In Acts 3:26, the NKJV calls Jesus God's "Servant." The KJV correctly calls Him God's "Son." These are not the

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same by any stretch of the imagination. Which one is He? If He is God's servant, so are you and I. If He is God's Son, then we all need to listen to what He said, because He is God! Changed words like this make a great deal of difference in how we understand a passage.

Please decide what God is saying to Moses:

"And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do **you** refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?" (Exodus 16:28, NKJV)

It looks like God is saying, "Moses, you are continuing to refuse to keep My commandments and My laws." But look carefully at the accurate King James:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse **ye** to keep my commandments and my laws?"

Now we understand! It was the **people**, not Moses, that God was upset with. "**Ye**" and "**you**" mean **more** than one person. "**Thee**," "**thou**," "**thy**," "**thine**," "**doeth**," "**hast**," etc., only mean **one** person. How do we know? The "y" is plural. The "t" is singular. Isn't that easy? Now you know what Jesus meant when He said to Nicodemus, "Marvel not that I said unto **thee**, **Ye** must be born again" (**John 3:7**).

What Jesus said was, "Nicodemus, marvel not that I said unto thee, all of you need to be born again." This is very important. Not only Nicodemus needed to be saved. But everybody, including him, needed to be born again. That's why Jesus used the plural.

But there is more of a problem than the thousands of times "thee" and "thou" are removed from God's words. What does a word mean? This is very important, as you shall see.

### 1. Go to Sheol?

The NKJV claims to be "more accurate" because it leaves **untranslated** words like "Hades" and "Sheol." What do they mean? You will know from the King James the exact meaning: "hell." We know what that means. Meaning is very important. When's the last time you heard someone told to "Go to Sheol"?

**Ps 18:5**

**Which is correct?**

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The NKJV consistently uses terms that don't mean the same as in the King James Bible. Here are some examples:

	King James Version	New King James Version
2 Corinthians 2:17	"For we are not as many which <b>corrupt</b> the word of God"	" <b>peddling</b> the word of God" (like the NIV, NASV and RSV)
Titus 3:10	"A man that is <b>an heretick</b> after the first and second admonition reject"	"Reject <b>a divisive man</b> " (like the NIV)
1 Thessalonians 5:22	"Abstain from <b>all appearance</b> of evil."	"Abstain from <b>every form</b> of evil." (like the NAS, RSV and ASV)
Isaiah 66:5	"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but <b>he shall appear to your joy</b> , and they shall be ashamed." [This means that the LORD shall appear, which shall occur at the Second Coming of Christ.]	"Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word: "Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name's sake, said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, <b>that we may see your joy</b> .' But they shall be ashamed." (Like the NIV, NASV, RSV and ASV, the Second Coming is wholly omitted from this scripture.)

Both translations **cannot** be correct. If one is right, the other has to be wrong. No matter how you slice it, the NKJV does **not** have the same meaning as the accurate King James Bible.

### 1. The New King James translators

Marion H. Reynolds Jr. of the Fundamental Evangelistic Association reveals a little-known fact:

"The duplicity of the NKJV scholars is also a matter for concern. Although each scholar was asked to subscribe to a statement confirming his belief in the plenary, divine, verbal inspiration of the original autographs (none of which exist today), the question of whether or not they also believed in the divine preservation of the divinely inspired originals was not an issue as it should have been. Dr. Arthur Farstad, chairman of the NKJV Executive Review Committee which had the responsibility of final text approval, stated that this committee was about equally divided as to which was the **better** Greek New Testament text-the Textus Receptus or the Westcott-Hort. **Apparently none of them believed that either text was the Divinely preserved Word of God.** Yet, all of them participated in a project to "protect and preserve the purity and accuracy" of the original KJV based on the TR. Is not this duplicity of the worst kind, coming from supposedly evangelical scholars?

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### Not "the real thing"

What Mr. Reynolds points out is very important to understand. There were basically two groups of translators working on the NKJV. One half believed that the perverted 45 Alexandrian manuscripts, from which came the Roman Catholic Bibles and the modern perversions, were **better** than the manuscripts behind the King James. The other group believed the thousands of manuscripts supporting the King James were **better**. This is a big problem: No one believed that they held God's words in their hands, only a "better" or "worse" text! The translators believed they had something **close**, but **not an accurate Bible**. It is a sad thing when a Bible translator doesn't even believe he has God's words in his hands. It sounds like they don't believe God kept His promise:

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.  
(Mark 13:31)

Perhaps that is why some of them had no problem working on other perversions, both before and after working on the NKJV. This is so **unlike** the 54+ Bible men who faithfully translated the King James Bible from preserved manuscripts of God's words. The difference between the King James and the "New" King James is the difference between day and night.

### Compromising God's Words

Many Christians are discovering the miracle of God's words in English. But the enemy has tried to insert a monkey-wrench: the NKJV. Pastors approve it, "scholars" promote it, but the NKJV is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The New King James is just a **compromise** between the liberal, perverted Bible versions floating around and the rock-solid, accurate and preserved words of God, the King James Bible.

by David W. Daniels

Let us Look at a few verses in the NKJV

Psalms 10:4-5, Acts 3:26, II Kings 23:29,

Psalms 10:5 "His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. NKJV

Psalms 10:5 "His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight:as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them." KJV

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So are the wicked prospering or the grievous in the side of God? According to NKJV they are prospering.

2 Kings 23:29

"In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the **aid** of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him." NKJV

2 Kings 23:29 "In his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up **against** the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him." KJV

So did the king go up to **aid** or to go **against**?

Let us Look at a few verses in the NIV

## **Ecc 8:10, Pov 18:24, Luke 4:4, 1 Cor 1:18**

They are 40 versus removed from different versions of the Bible like.

## **NIV, NLT, ESV, and Others**

## **Matt 18:11, Mark 11:22, Luke 17:36, Mark 7:16, Mark 9:44**

## **Why Should I Study & Understand the Bible?**

### **Psalms 119:9**

**"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
by taking heed thereto according to thy word."**

The Bible is the greatest gift we have as Christians!

Just stop and think about it... the same breath of God that created the heavens and the earth (**Psalms 33:6**) also delivered the Bible to us!

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What does the Bible do for us?

1. It is the key to understanding God's purpose and plan for our lives. 2. It is God's love letter to us.
3. It gives us strength for adversity (**Psalm 119:50, 92**).
4. The Bible is the greatest treasure on Earth (**Psalm 119:72**).
5. It shows us eternal life (how to get to Heaven) **Roman 6:23**
6. It is our road map for everything in our lives.
7. And so much more... what other things can you think of?

God has commanded you to study his Word so that you can be approved and unashamed before him. (**2 Timothy 2:15**)

One day you will stand alone before your Creator - God. Do you really want to tell him that you never read what he wrote to you?

You have been commanded to live by every word that proceeds out of his mouth. (**Matthew 4:4**)

How can you live by every word if you don't read every word?

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** tells us that God's Word is both inspired and profitable (heaping up spiritual benefits upon us):

- "**For doctrine**" - The Bible corrects Satan's lies with God's truth.
- "**For reproof**" - It removes the wrong from our lives.
- "**For correction**" - It replaces the wrong in our lives with right.
- "**For instruction in righteousness**" - "Instruction" here is from a word which means to stir great desires - a desire for righteousness.

Have you ever found yourself knowing what is right, and yet not having the desire to do it?

Time invested in the Bible stirs new and all-consuming desires to please God. "**That the man of God may be perfect**" (mature)

The Bible matures us (**1 Peter 2:2**). Just as a baby needs nourishment to grow, Christians need to feed on God's Word to grow spiritually.

## Hiding it in your Heart.

## Memory Verse

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) "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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Too often, people get saved and then sit on a church bench for the rest of their lives, "**stunting**" their growth by not reading God's Word.

They, in effect, never "**grow up**", and they remain "**infants**" their entire lives.

## "Thoroughly furnished unto all good works"

- The Bible contains every spiritual resource you need to love God and live for him... to worship, serve, please, glorify, and witness for him.

For instance, the **Bible** guides us in our lives (**Psalms 119:105**).

1. You don't have to wonder what God expects of you, or how to accomplish his plan for your life.

2. Your "mission in life" is found within the pages of his Word.

3. Reassures us. (**Romans 8:31-39**). God reassures us of his unconditional love, of our eternal security, and of his constant presence.

The Bible also protects us "...By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer" (**Psalms 17:4**). The Bible is full of warnings to protect us from both the world and from Satan's snares.

God gives us specific ways in which to protect ourselves, and promises to always give us a way of escape when confronted with temptation (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

The Bible keeps us from offences (**Psalms 119:165**).

If you love God's Word, you will never be offended (stumble) in your walk with Christ.

**If you love God then you will read his love letter to you - the Bible!**

## Preparing Your Heart to Understand the Bible

## Hiding it in your Heart.

## Memory Verse

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## Do you want to understand the Bible?

In order to accomplish this, we must begin with an understanding of the fact that the Bible is a spiritual book and can only be understood when God reveals his truth to us.

This means that you must first prepare your heart before you open your Bible.

Let us look at the prerequisites for understanding the Bible.

**1. Salvation** - The Bible can only be understood by those who know the Author and are indwelt by God's Spirit.

"But the natural [unsaved] man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned". **(1 Corinthians 2:9-14)**

**2. Spirit Fullness** - We receive the Spirit at salvation, but this does not mean that we are automatically sensitive to the guidance and teaching ministry of the Spirit. This comes through daily being surrendered to and dependent upon the Spirit. (see *John 7:39*)

**3. Passionate Desire** - To prepare your heart to understand the Bible, you need to have a passionate desire and determination to understand God's Word. Proverbs speaks of looking for spiritual truths as diligently and relentlessly as we would search for hidden treasure. (see *Proverbs 2:1-5*).

**4. Commitment to Faithfulness** - God does not reveal his great and sacred truths to those who only occasionally dabble in his Word. He reveals his truths to those who are committed to faithfulness in investing their time to studying the Word.

**5. Surrender** - The surrender of your mind and will to the authority of Scripture is an essential component of preparing your heart for the Bible. This does not mean you stop thinking, for God calls us to reason together with His

## **Hiding it in your Heart.**

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Word (see *Isaiah 1:18*). We are to recognize that God's wisdom is infinitely greater than our own and we are to submit to his authority.

**6. A Pure Motive** - Our motive must be to live what we learn, not to simply gain information for prideful or argumentative purposes. God reveals his truths to those whose hearts are pure before him. (see *Proverbs 2:6-7*).

## **Psalm 119:18,27,34**

A pastor was on a flight when he noticed that a woman seated nearby was reading a book he had written. He silently watched as she read to see what her response was. After some time, he asked her what she thought of the book she was reading. She expressed how much she enjoyed parts of the book, but admitted that she was confused by other parts of the book. She expressed how she wished that she could ask the author what he meant by certain parts of the book. The pastor then informed her that he was the author of the book. After some initial disbelief, she immediately asked her questions. As he explained, she expressed how clear his explanations made the book seem.

This is exactly what the Holy Spirit wants to do for you. If you want to understand the Bible, you need to get to know the Author - God - well enough to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

## **What Bible Study Methods should I use?**

We have seen that the Bible is a spiritual book that can only be understood when its truths are revealed to us by God. Therefore, the first step to any Bible study method is to begin with prayer. Whenever you open your Bible, begin by asking God to prepare your heart and then to show what he has for you today. Then you read until you have discovered a truth that you can apply to your life. There are a number of different methods that you can use in your daily Bible study, but first, you need a simple plan to know what you are looking for each day. This plan works no matter what method you may use. As you read, remember this acronym - PCTEST, and look for a(n)...

- 1. Promise to claim**
- 2. Command to obey**
- 3. Truth to Learn**
- 4. Example to follow or avoid**
- 5. Sin to confess or avoid**

## **Hiding it in your Heart.**

## **Memory Verse**

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## **6. Thought from God for the day.**

It is often wise to use a variety of methods to study your Bible. This not only keeps your studying fresh, but it also will give you the benefits of each method over time and may help you to find the methods that best fit with your personality. Here are a few different common methods:

### **1. The simple "Read Through the Books of the Bible" method.**

This is where you read through the entire Bible using a reading plan or schedule. Here you are trying to get an overall understanding of the big picture of the Bible. If you need one of these plans, I can print one off for you!

### **2. The "Directed Devotional" method.**

With this method, you use a devotional guide to lead you on a study and application of various themes on a daily basis.

### **3. The "Master a Book" method.**

With this method, you choose a book of the Bible (usually in the New Testament) that you read repeatedly while writing down key thoughts, outlines, and applications to your life.

### **4. The "Character Study" method.**

Choose a Bible character (like Joseph, Daniel, David, or Sarah)) and study their life looking for Biblical principles that you can apply to your own life, following their example and avoiding their mistakes.

### **5. The "Theological or Topical Study" method.**

Choose a doctrine (like salvation) or topic (like marriage) and search through the Scriptures for passages relating to this subject. A good concordance, Bible commentary, or other study tools in book or computer form are vital tools for these last two methods.

**Romans 10:4; Colossians 2:14-17; 1Tim. 4:3-5; Galatians 3:21-25**

**What guidelines should be us for proper Bible Interpretation?**

## Hiding it in your Heart.

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If we are to properly understand the word of God, we should begin with an understanding of certain guiding principles of interpretation:

1. The words of the Bible are to be understood in their ordinary sense. Some people assume the Bible should be understood in some allegorical sense where we assign unusual, symbolic meanings to ordinary words. This method really replaces the clear meanings and authority of the words God inspired with the opinions of men concerning what they think God really meant. ... but read this - "No scripture is of any private interpretation" (**2 Peter 1:20**).

2. The words of the Bible are to be understood in light of the history and culture in which they were written. We should take the time to understand the subject and background of the book we are reading. There are several questions we should ask to understand the background of a passage:

1. Who is speaking and to whom are they speaking?
2. Who is speaking therefore really matters.
3. Who is being addressed is also very important, for some commands are for all people and others were only for a particular person, group, or time.
4. When are they speaking?
5. What are the circumstances they are addressing?
6. What are they speaking about?
7. What is the subject?

3. The words of the Bible are to be understood in light of the ordinary laws of language and grammar.

4. The words of the Bible are to be understood in harmony with one another. God never contradicts himself. Any valid interpretation of a passage will be in harmony with the rest of the Bible. Much confusion has arisen from those who base a teaching on one passage, without being sure that this teaching is in harmony with the rest of the Bible.

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5. Passages that are difficult to understand should be interpreted in light of passages where the meaning is clear and obvious.

6. Beware of new and novel interpretations. Humility demands that if you are the only one who has understood a passage in a certain way, you should re-examine the passage to see if you are misunderstanding it. There is an old saying about Bible study and doctrine: **"If it's new, it isn't true and if it's true, it isn't new."**

A quick glance at certain verses in Ecclesiastes might lead you to the false notion that life has no meaning. Understanding the subject of this book clarifies that it is life without God that has no meaning. Also, before following an example in Scripture, we should be certain it was given as a good example rather than as a bad example.

**Matthew 27:3-5; Luke 10:37; John 13:27**

## When does Real Learning Takes Place?

It is now time to put what you've learned into action and begin to truly study your Bible. There are no limits on the spiritual growth possible if you are faithful in God's Word. You have a lifetime goal "to be conformed to the image of his Son... " (**Romans 8:29**).

You've been memorizing the Scripture passage on the top of each page here. Now let's add a life-transforming step by beginning to meditate on these verses.

False philosophies and religions advocate meditation consisting of emptying your mind. Biblical meditation consists of filling your mind with Scripture and thinking upon these truths. In meditation, you rehearse Scripture over and over in your mind, focusing on what God is saying to you with each sentence, phrase, and word. As you practice daily meditation, you will be amazed at how God will open your heart to new truths each time you

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read his Word. Give yourself time to read, review, meditate and pray about what you've just learned.

Meditate daily by focusing upon God's:

### 1. Truths -

What truths is God revealing to you? What is he revealing about himself? Is he giving you something that you can use in your personal witness? Is he correcting a false belief you have accepted?

### 2. Promises -

God has an abundance of promises for His children. Maybe He is showing you a new promise today. For instance, Jesus said, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (**Hebrews 13:5**).

### 3. Commands -

Sometimes God reveals to us a command to obey or one that we have been violating. This reality is sometimes unpleasant, but he shows us our sin so that we can repent and draw even closer to him.

### 4. Exhortation -

Being a Christian isn't always easy, but God's Word is there to encourage us each day. The world hates us, and Satan seeks to make us fall and ruin our testimony. Sometimes we may feel discouraged and want to give up. God's Word can comfort us and give us a peace and encouragement that nothing and no one else can. "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart. (**Psalm 34:18; see also Matthew 11:28**).

### 5. Guidance -

Being in God's will doesn't have to be a guessing game. He's given you a blueprint for your life, including instructions on parenting, marriage, finances, relationships and much more.

### 6. Application -

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This is the final and most important step! \* **We have never truly learned a truth until we live a truth.** \* It can be discouraging to realize that you remember only a little of what you read, but it is thrilling to realize that you remember almost 100% of what you put into action. There is no reward from God for what we simply know (**James 1:22; Luke 11:28**), but for what we do. The purpose of our learning is to live out God's truths in our daily lives. The more we do this, the more peace, joy, and fruitfulness we will have in our lives and the greater our rewards will be in Heaven.

Praise God!

**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119:15,48,78,148.**

### Review Questions:

**1. Why is the Bible so important in our lives?**

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**2. Can we prove that the Bible is true by the Bible?**

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**3. How does the Bible stand up to this test of perfect prophecy?**

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**4. When science seems to contradict the Bible what are we to remember first?**

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## **Hiding it in your Heart.**

## **Memory Verse**

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**5. Are there scientific facts stated in Scripture which could not have been known by the human authors of the Bible?**

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**6. What Bible translation should we use?**

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**7. Why Should I Study & Understand the Bible?**

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**8. What Bible Study Methods should I use?**

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**10. What guidelines should be us for proper Bible Interpretation?**

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**11. When does Real Learning Takes Place?**

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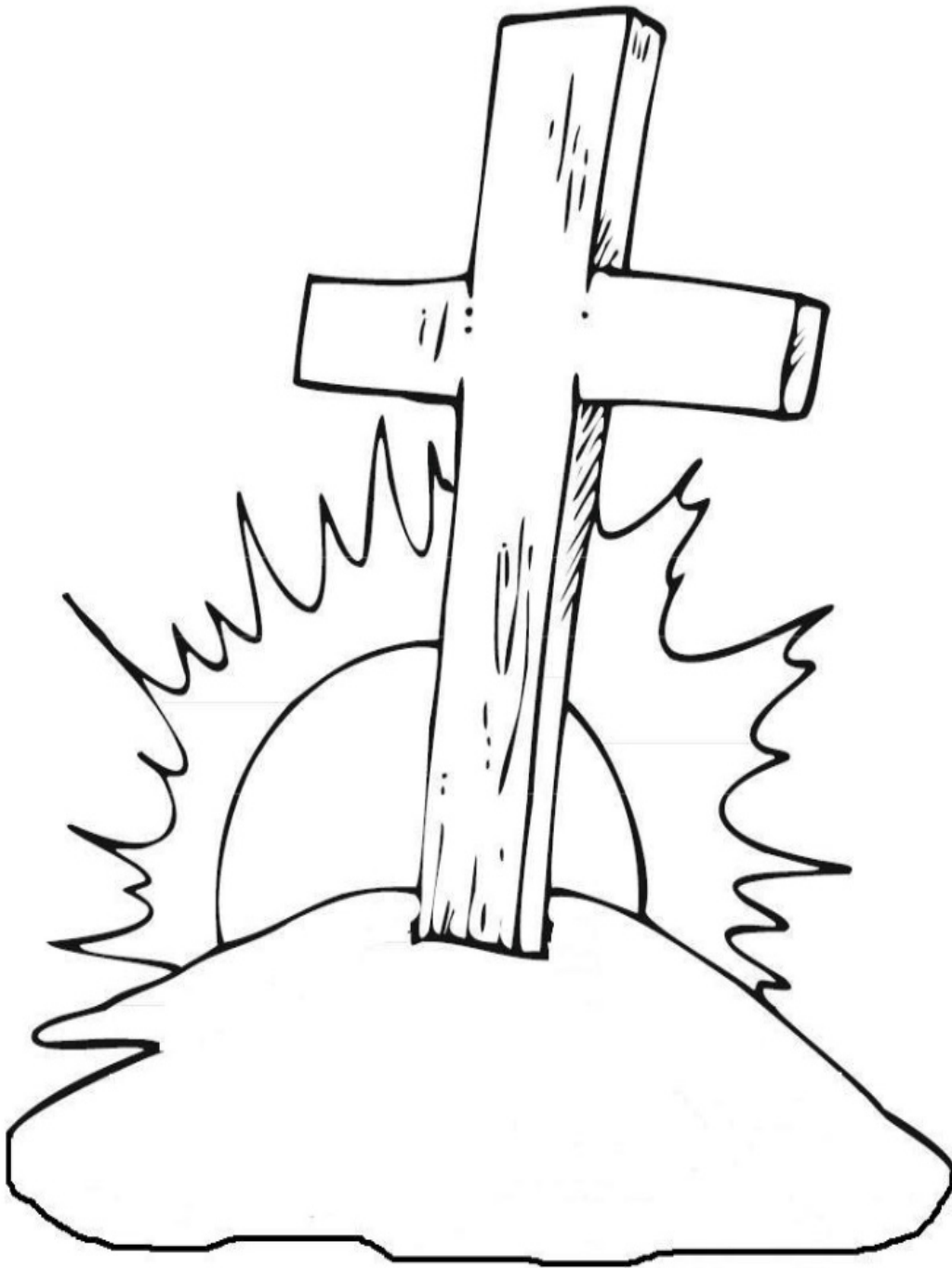
**"If it's new, it isn't true and if it's true, it isn't new."**

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