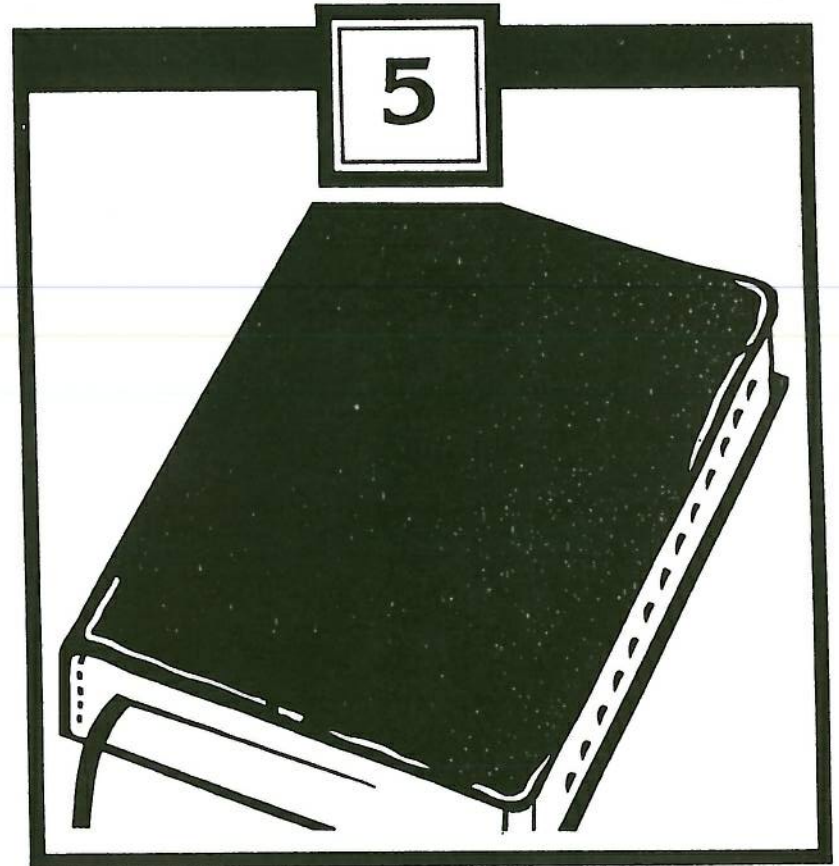


# Biblical Discipleship

5



THE WORD OF GOD





## LESSON 5: THE WORD OF GOD

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

What separates Christianity from any "religion" in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. Having the word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the word of God.

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

- I. The word of God is active in salvation.
  - A. *1 Peter 1:23* says a man is born again "**BY THE WORD OF GOD.**" The word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.
  - B. *Ephesians 2:8-9* says, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith...*" *Romans 10:17* says, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing **BY THE WORD OF GOD.***"
  - C. *James 1:21* says the word of God is, "*...able to save your souls.*"

D. Paul's summary of the gospel contains four parts in *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*:

1. *Jesus Christ died for our sins.*

2. *Was buried.*

3. *Rose from the dead.*

4. *ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.*

E. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved.

II. Since you are saved by the word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live. To illustrate:

A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don't go by the book, it won't work.

B. The Bible is God's "owner's manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions; but you must "go by the book."

*Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6*

- III. What is the purpose of the word of God for a Christian?
- A. The word of God equips you for service, "*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"
- II Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18.*
- B. The word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as "spiritual food." See *Job 23:12* and *Jeremiah 15:16*. It is a complete and balanced diet.
1. Milk. *I Peter 2:2*
  2. Honey. *Psalms 119:103; Proverbs 16:24*
  3. Apples. *Proverbs 7:2; 25:11*
  4. Bread. *Luke 4:4*
  5. Water. *Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26*
  6. Meat. *Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2*
  7. Vegetables. *Psalms 78:24*
- C. The word of God keeps you clean to please God.
- Psalms 119:9-11; John 15:3*

## IV. Is the Bible completely reliable?

- \* A. It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all "experiences" are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter said the word of God was MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God.

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

- B. The universe was created by the spoken word of God.

*Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6; Genesis 1:3*

## V. How do I learn the Bible?

- A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, tapes, preachers, etc.) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit.

*John 14:26; John 16:13-15*

- B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. "*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.*"

*I Corinthians 2:9-16*

## Key memory verses:

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

NOTE: Many popular attitudes about the Bible are:

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

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

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

9. We learned from lesson #4 that the \_\_\_\_\_ guides us into all truth. The Bible is also learned by \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture with \_\_\_\_\_ and depending on God's Spirit to teach you.
10. According to *I Corinthians 2:9-16*, why can't lost people properly understand what the Bible teaches?
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11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

#### VI. A brief history of the Bible.

- A. A total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- B. Written through more than 40 men.
- C. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all 66 books is the Holy Spirit.

*II Peter 1:21*

- D. Written over a time span of about 2,000 years.
- E. Totally accurate in matters of history, of prophecy and of every issue of life.
- F. Not one contradiction.

#### VII. Read this famous anonymous quote concerning the Bible:

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

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to

support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's 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, 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 be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents."

#### VIII. Basic questions.

##### A. Where should I start reading?

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

1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 20:31*
2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. *I John 5:13*

6. Your physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two Scripture references that show us this.

A.

B.

7. According to *II Peter 1:16-21*, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The Bible judges all of man's \_\_\_\_\_ because it is an \_\_\_\_\_.

8. According to Genesis 1 and 2, man's theory of evolution is a lie. What do we learn from the following verses regarding this subject?

A. *Hebrews 11:3*

B. *Psalms 33:6*



3. What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christian's life?
    - A.
    - B.
    - C.
  4. From *II Timothy 3:16-17*, we understand that all Scripture is profitable for the following:
    - A.
    - B.
    - C.
    - D.
  5. The Bible is likened to God's "owner's manual" for your life. Briefly explain why this is.
3. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for the word of God.
    - B. What if I find something I don't understand?
      1. Don't get upset about it, God will reveal it to you in time — when you are ready. *John 16:12*
      2. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

NOTES

THE WORD OF GOD  
Lesson #5

1. The Word of God is active in our salvation.  
Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.
  - A. *1 Peter 1:23*
  - B. *Romans 10:17*
  - C. *James 1:21*
  
2. What are the four key elements of the Gospel according to *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.