

## The Word of God

How important is the Word of God in our lives?

**Someone has written,**

*“We have 35 million laws on the books to enforce the Ten Commandments.”*

Another said,

“I’ve read many books, but the Bible reads me.”

D. L. Moody said,

“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.”

Mark Twain painfully penned,

“It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.”

John Wycliffe was banished as Oxford’s Professor of Divinity and branded “an instrument of the Devil...the author of schism.” But he was to win world acclaim for his masterful translation of the Scriptures into the English vernacular. That translation not only infused a new depth and beauty into the English language but imparted to all who read it, the good news of god’s saving grace.

Having been driven into virtual exile by the hypocritical alliance of church and state authorities, he knew full well they would now unite to destroy his translation of the Bible. Therefore, with a bold defiance of all their threats and evil imaginings against him, Wycliffe wrote in a flyleaf of his Bible: “This Bible is translated and shall make possible a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Little did he know that five hundred years later his words would be immortalized by the president of a new government, founded on the shores of a new continent, as he arose to dedicate a blood-drenched battlefield.”

[Stuart p. Garver, *Our Christian Heritage*]

### **I. The Word of God is of Vital Importance to us**

“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

Let's begin today with a **doctrinal statement** concerning the Word of God:

The *Old and New Testaments*, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

Three important aspects to understand about the Bible.

### I. **Inspiration**

Revelation – Every part of Scripture is God's word to us, revealed by God  
Inspiration – God breathed – (Theo pneustos--pneuma) "God Spirited"

*Plenary verbal inspiration*: verbal-the very words of the Bible;  
plenary – every part of the Bible;  
inspiration- are God breathed.

### II. **Illumination**

Illumination – God's Spirit giving understanding

-Understanding based on historical/grammatical interpretation as guided by the Holy Spirit in our lives, producing faith and spiritual growth.

W. C. Fields, a lifetime agnostic, was discovered reading a Bible on his deathbed. "I'm looking for a loop-hole," he explained.

### III. **Transformation**

-Maturity/Christ-likeness

Be know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Pet. 1:20-21

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim. 3:15-16

J. B. Phillips translation:

All Scripture is inspired by God

and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error,  
for re-setting the direction of a man's life  
and training him in good living.

The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God,

and fit him fully for all branches of his work.

Jesus is the central message of the Scriptures.

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are **written about Me** in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures..." (Luke 24:44-45).

## **II. The Word of God is eternal and accomplishes God's will in us.**

Isaiah wrote,

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
And do not return there without watering the earth  
And making it bear and sprout,  
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;  
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;  
It will not return to Me empty,  
Without accomplishing what I desire,  
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

(Isaiah 55:8-11)

- Our natural inclination is the opposite of God's thoughts and ways.
- God's Word can change us according to His design and will for our lives.

The greatest thing about God's Word is that it is alive, purposeful and powerful. God says that It is effective, accomplishing and succeeding in what God has determined. The writer to the Hebrews proclaimed that it is alive,

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thought and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:12-13).

What should our response to these things be?

- The job of pastors is to proclaim the word of God:

**“I solemnly charge you** in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead and by His appearing the His kingdom: **preach the word**, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction, for the time will com when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

Equipping the Saints

God gave pastors and teachers to the church to equip the saints for service, sound in doctrine, solid in character, and mature in faith until they become Christlike in their love for one another.  
(Eph. 4:11-16)

### III. The Word of God must become our Priority

Do not be conformed to this world  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [Word of God]...  
(Rom. 12:2)

Four Realizations concerning the Word of God:

1. **The Bible** is not for the unbeliever.

“But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor. 2:13).

2. **The Bible** is meant to be obeyed, not just learned.

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for one he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does”  
(James 1:22-25).

3. **The Bible** is meant to be learned, lived, and modeled for others so that there might be a duplication process.

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32).

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20).

4. **The Bible** will change us as we surrender to God completely and then purpose to live according to His Word.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”  
(Rom. 12:1-2).

Maturity is moving from soft skin – tough heart  
...to tough skin – soft heart.

“Like newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word,  
that you may grow in respect to salvation. (1 Pet. 2:2)

Moody wrote, “I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me”

Someone has penned these words:

I am my neighbor's Bible:  
    He reads me when we meet,  
Today he reads me in my house,  
    Tomorrow in the street;  
He may be relative or friend,  
    Or slight acquaintance be;  
He may not even know my name,  
    Yet he is reading me.