

The Bible: Experiencing the Power of God's Word

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the person of God can be adequately equipped for every situation.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible is unlike any other book you will ever read. What makes the Bible so unique is that it is a living book! The printed words on the page never change, but the Bible will always have something new and life-changing to show you (Hebrews 4:12).

The Bible is the only book you need in order to know God and walk with Him. It has stood the test of time and critical examination.

Read the verses below and complete the sentence:

Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

God's Word is _____.

Psalm 18:30

God's Word is _____.

Psalm 119:160

God's Word is _____.

Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:24-25

God's Word is _____.



In July of 1999, the world was stunned by the news that John F. Kennedy, Jr. had perished in plane crash, along with his wife and her sister. The son of the late president was piloting his private plane to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to attend a family wedding. Instead, his plane mysteriously plunged out of the night sky, Investigators found no mechanical problems with Kennedy's plane and concluded the probable cause was pilot error due to "spatial disorientation." A blanket of haze covered the sky that night, obscuring the horizon over the open water.

Typically, pilots in trouble are taught to ignore their physical senses and depend on their navigation equipment. Without the ability to fly solely by the instrument panel, a pilot can easily lose control of the aircraft, sometimes within seconds.

In life, we are faced with choices and decisions every day. The way is not always clear. We must decide to depend on our own instincts or look for guidance from a source outside ourselves. The Bible is the source of truth. God's Word is the "instrument panel" that will help us safely navigate through life.

Various Terms for the Bible

1 Corinthians 15:3,4

Ephesians 6:17

What the Bible does in Us

1 John 2:5



Romans 10:17

John 15:3

Learning to Study the Bible

Why should we study the Bible? The writer of Psalm 119 said, “How I love Your law. I think about it all day long.”

In inductive Bible study three basic skills are developed and always used:

1. Begin with **Observation**. What does the Bible say? Get involved in what you are reading by asking who, what, why, when, where and how type of questions. The point is to gather information. Let your natural curiosity and desire to learn set the pace. Imagine the people, the places and the events you read about. Don't use your imagination to produce facts – use it to bring the biblical facts to life!
2. **Interpretation**. Interpretation looks for meaning with understanding. In this step we are constantly asking *What does this mean?* First, we must seek to understand what the writer wanted his original readers to hear. Then we must ask how it relates to life today. Some helpful questions for this step might be: “What does this teach about God? What does this say about people? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a warning to pay attention to? Is there a command to obey? Is there an example to follow or avoid? The Bible is filled with principles – the building blocks that form the foundation of what we believe and how we behave toward God and others. Simply put, a principle is a spiritual lesson.



3. **Application.** Application isn't just the last step of inductive Bible study – it's the next step toward spiritual growth. In the step of *application*, I am asking *How does this apply to me?* Application calls for a response. How will you cooperate with God in living what you have learned? The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to take steps to put it into action.

“The mark of spiritual maturity is not how much of the Bible you understand, but how much you use. In the spiritual realm, the opposite of ignorance is not knowledge but obedience.”

Howard Hendricks, *Living by the Book*

Some practical suggestions:

- *Choose a single Bible verse, or a small portion of Scripture, to read and meditate on. Read enough to get a clear understanding of what the passage means.
- *Keep a journal nearby to record what you have read and what the Lord is speaking to you through it. Write out how it applies to you and how you will respond.
- *Pray about what you have read and learned, speaking to the Lord about what He has said in His Word.

