

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 we as Christians are to govern the details of our individual lives are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of the bible and how it relates to everyday life. This should lead to an understanding of how its principles are to guide every facet of your personal walk with Jesus Christ.

- I. The Word of God is infallible and therefore, is absolutely reliable.
 - A. The very words of God are inspired.
II Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 30:5-6
 - B. The very words of God are preserved.
Psalm 12:6-7, 119:160; Matthew 5:17-18, 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; Proverbs 22:20-21; John 10:35
 - C. The very words of God are not to be changed by man.
Pro verbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 4:2; John 12:48; I Timothy 6:3-5

D. The very words of God are more 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

II. The Word of God is active in salvation.

A. *I Peter 1:23* says we are 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. Speaking to the brethren, James 1:21 says the Word of God is “*...able to save your souls.*”

D. Paul’s summary of the Gospel contains three parts, all **ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.**

I Corinthians 15:1-4

1. Jesus Christ died for our sins
2. Jesus Christ was buried.
3. Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

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

III The Word of God is spiritually discerned.

- A. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect.
*"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."
I Corinthians 2:9-16*
- B. The Holy Spirit of God will guide you into all truth. He often uses other instruments to aid in teaching such as books, tapes, and preachers. Remember, truth is always revealed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, any believer indwelt by the Holy Spirit can learn the Bible. *John 14:26, 16: 13-15*

III. The Word of God has a unique history.

- A. The Bible has a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- B. The Bible was written through more than 40 men.
- C. The Bible 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. The Bible was written over a time span of about 2,000 years.
- E. The Bible is totally accurate in matters of history, of prophecy and of every issue of life. There are no contradictions in the Bible.

IV. The Word of God has a profound impact on human history.

- A. “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 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.”

-- Anonymous

- B. “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without the Bible.”
-- George Washington
- C. “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man.”
-- Abraham Lincoln

VI. The Word of God is your absolute, infallible guide for life.

- 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. You must go “by the book.”
Psalm 119-105; Proverbs 3:5-6

VIII The Word of God accomplishes many purposes in the life of 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 3:16-15; Ephesians 6:10-18
- B. The word of God sustains you. It is often associated with different foods. See *Job 23:12* and *Jeremiah 15:16*. It is a complete and balanced diet.
1. Milk *I Peter 2:2*
 2. Honey *Psalm 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 *Psalm 78:24*
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God.
Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3

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 *Psalms 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

3. *Psalms 119* is written to establish your love for the Word of God.

B. What if I find something I don't understand?

1. You will find many things you do not understand. Don't get frustrated. Wait for God to reveal it in His time.

John 16:12

2. The most important thing is to 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. What are three scriptures demonstrating you have God's preserved Word in your hands?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. According to *II Peter 1:16-21*, the Bible is _____ than the _____ of God. The Bible judges all of our _____ because it is an _____.
3. The Word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply.
 - A. *I Peter 1:23*
 - B. *Romans 10:17*
 - C. *James 1:21*

- 4 Paul lists three key elements of the Gospel in *I Corinthians 15:1-4*. How do we know they are true?

- 5 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.

- 6 According to *I Corinthians 2:9-16*, why can't lost people properly understand what the Bible teaches?

- 7 The Bible is likened to God's "owner's manual" for your life. Briefly explain why this is true.

- 8 What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christians life?
 - A.

 - B.

 - C.

9. From *II Timothy 3:16-17*, we understand all scripture is profitable for the following:
 - A.

 - B.

 - C.

 - D.

10. Your physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two scripture references that show this.

A.

B.

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 boo 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 scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

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

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

LESSON 6: PRAYER

“How Important is Prayer in My Life?”

A Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you. When you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication. Prayer is simply your direct communication to God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of a proper prayer life so these lines of communication can be open and effective.

- I. Prayer has specific purposes.
 - A. Prayer gives you the ability to communicate with God.
Hebrews 4:16
 - B. Prayer gives you peace of heart and mind.
Philippians 4:6-7
 - C. Prayer draws you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for every need.
 - D. God knows exactly what you need even before you ask.
Matthew 6:8
 - E. God allows needs to come into your life so He can draw you to Him.
Psalms 50:15

- II. Prayer must have a specific place in your life.
 - A. It is absolutely essential to recognize you have needs in your life that only God can meet. Therefore, you must make prayer part of your life. Revelation 3:16-17
 - B. It is absolutely essential to give thanks in everything, including the difficult times of your life.
I Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 5:3-5; I Peter 3:12-15
 - C. It is essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer.
I Thessalonians 5:17
- III. Prayer follows specific principles.
 - A. The Bible provides basic guidelines.
 - 1. Pray always – develop a lifestyle of communicating with God.
I Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1
 - 2. Don't repeat the same words over and over. *Matthew 6:7*
 - 3. Talk to the Lord as a friend because that's what He is – your friend!
John 15:13-14, Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 18:24
 - 4. Realize you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God.
I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18

B. Always focus on maintaining a proper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are certain things that can hinder your prayers.

1. Unconfessed sin. *Isaiah 59:1-2;*
Psalm 66:18

2. An unforgiving spirit.
Matthew 6:14-15

3. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others).
I Peter 3-7

4. Not asking.
James 4:2

5. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives.
James 4:3; Proverbs 21:13

6. Insensitivity to the Word of God.
Proverbs 28-9

C. *Romans 8:26-27* makes it clear we don't always know how or for what to pray. That is why the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer.

VI. Prayer follows a specific pattern. *I Timothy 2*

A. Supplication – urgent requests. This is when you seek to discover God's plan in a specific matter.
II Corinthians 12:7-10; Matthew 26:36-44

B. Prayers – specific requests rooted in God's Word. *Philippians 4:6* says to "...let your requests be made known to God." Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general and not biblically based.

For example: “God, please give me a blessing.” Which one? How do you want me to bless you?

- C. Intercessions – prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and keep your selfish eyes off yourself.

1 Samuel 12-23

- D. Giving of thanks – appreciation for God. *Psalm 100:4* makes it clear we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.

V Prayer should follow specific practices in your life.

- A. Make a list to help you remember. Otherwise your prayer life will not be consistent.

- B. Keep a list of answered prayers to reinforce your faith in God’s ability to answer.

VI. Basic questions.

- A. Does God answer all my prayers?

Yes, but not always the way or at the time you expect. As we learned in lesson one, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “NOT YET.” In those times, simply trust Him.

B. How important is it to pray for others?

B How important is it to pray for others?

1. Paul prayed for others continually (*Romans 1:9*) and requested prayer on many occasions.

Hebrews 13:18; II Thessalonians 3:1

2. Samuel said it was a sin against God not to pray for others.

I Samuel 12:23

An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England, George Mueller, prayed for the salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When Mr. Mueller died, some of these people were still lost. However, there were some saved at his funeral and many others were saved within the next year. This leads to the next point. **Keep at it and be faithful.** The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this lifetime.

C. Should I try to change God's mind when I pray?

No. The purpose of prayer is to conform you to His will, not the other way around.

PRAYER

Lesson #6

1. What is the result of a good prayer life?

2. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do the following verses teach us about God and our needs?
 - A. *Matthew 6:8*

 - B. *Psalm 50:15*

 - C. *Revelation 3:16-17*

3. According to *1 Thessalonians 5:18*, we are to give thanks in everything. This includes the _____ of our lives.

4. What should be your first reaction in a tough situation?

5. There are some primary guidelines concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following verses.

A. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

B. *Matthew 6:7*

C. *Exodus 33:11*

6. List the things that will interfere with your prayer life.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

7. What are two ways that help you keep your prayer requests in order?
 - A.

 - B.
8. God answers your prayers but not always the way you expect. This answer will sometimes be _____ or _____.
9. We are instructed not to pray to idols or to another person. Explain *1 Timothy 2:5* in light of this truth.
10. What is something prayer does **NOT** accomplish?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18;

1 Thessalonians 5:18

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. People should pray to idols, saints, or others.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
3. The best prayers are those which have been written by others and are just “said” by you.
4. Prayer must be at a set time in a set format.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these teachings are false and why.

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

LESSON 7: THE WILL OF GOD

“How Do I Find God’s Will For My Life?”

A famous preacher once said a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfils it. This is a very profound statement. The true measure of a person’s success is not social status, a bank account, influence, or fame. It is simply doing what god wants.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the bible, so you can begin to accomplish those things that are important to Him.

- I. Understand the difference between God’s will and God’s plan.
 - A. The will of God concerns our spiritual development.

It is **never** connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.

- B. The plan of God concerns our spiritual deployment.

God has a specific plan for you as an individual. This **plan** is the specific direction God will give in the circumstances of **your** life.

- II. Understand the biblical dimension of God’s will.

- A. God wills specific things for your life.

1. *1 Thessalonians 4:3-7* – We are to live holy lives. God desires our sanctification.

2. *II Peter 3:9* – We are to be witnesses as we understand god is not willing that any should perish. All lost people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
 3. *I Thessalonians 5:18* – We are to give thanks in everything.
 4. *I Peter 2:13-15* – We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However this must be balanced by the next point.
 5. *Romans 12:1-2* – We are not to be conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to lead others to Christ. At the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.)
 6. *Ephesians 6:5-8* – We are to serve those in authority from the heart, with pure motives, as if we are serving Jesus Christ.
 7. *Ephesians 5:15-17* – We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time! Make use of the small amount God has given you.
- B. God's will for every believer is to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ and can be summarized as follows:
1. *I Timothy 2:3-4* SALVATION
 2. *I Peter 4:1-2* SANCTIFICATION
 3. *Ephesians 1:3-5* GLORIFICATION

- III. Understand God's direction in your life by the three resources He has provided.
- A. He has given you the Holy Spirit to indwell you and direct your life.
Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:9-10
 - B. He has given you the Word of God as your absolute authority in every detail of life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts.
Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:6-11
 - C. He has given you the local church which is organized to equip you for life and ministry. Through other believers He provides you wise counsel.
Ephesians 4:11-12
- IV. Understand God's priority in the details of your life.
- A. Obedience to God's will is more important than the discovery of God's plan.

You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfill the will of God in your daily life and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.
 - B. God is more interested in what you are than in what you do. He is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be rather than you're doing "mighty works" for Him. Be what He wants you to be and He will; show you what to do.
Philippians 2:13

V. Basic Questions.

A. Why doesn't God reveal all the details of His direction for me now?

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle when you are ready.
3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
4. God wants you to be patient as He works in your life spiritually. As time goes on and you begin to grow in your Christian walk, your interests, talents and desires will grow and change. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" If all the five year olds in America were surveyed on this question, then forced to tick with their answer, 20 years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. Be patient and consistent in fulfilling God's will for your life. He will be faithful to guide you.

B. Why does God allow seemingly "bad" things to happen in my life?

1. Occasionally things happen in a Christian's life which does not appear to be good.
 - a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer they did not have to suffer.
I Peter 3:15-18, 5:19; II Corinthians 12:6-10
 - b. From Lesson 1, we learned our heavenly Father will never make a mistake as He deals with His children.
Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:28
2. God allows all of us to make our own choices in life – both good and bad.
 - a. We have a free will.

Revelation 22:17

- b. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life. However, if we exercise our free will and reject salvation, the result is suffering the consequences.

Galatians 6:7-8

THE WILL OF GOD

Lesson #7

1. What is the difference between God's will and God's plan?

2. God also has a specific _____ for your life, which involves his
_____.

3. What did God give you that allow you to make decisions, both good and bad? _____.

4. God has given everyone a free will; therefore He will not force you to do anything. But when you reject God's salvation or direction, what is the result?

5. God has a will for mankind. List seven things God Specifically wills.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
 - G.
6. Summarize God's will for your life as a Christian. Give scripture references to support your answer.
7. What must be active in your life as a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
8. Before God will give His direction in your life what must take place?

9. According to I Peter 5:10, God allows Christians to go through suffering so they might be more:
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson?

Key memory verses:

Romans 12:1-2; I Peter 3:17

II Peter 3:9

NOTE: There is much confusion today about the will of God. Some popular beliefs are:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and our free will has no bearing on the matter.
4. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in our life.
From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these beliefs are false and why.

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

LESSON 8: The LOCAL CHURCH

“What is the purpose of My involvement in a local Church?”

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, the civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God’s plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church.

The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon you the central role which the church should play in your everyday life.

- I. Understand the biblical definition of the local church.
 - A. It is **NOT** a building Acts 14:27
 1. We worship God in spirit and truth.
John 4:24
 2. Our bodies are the temple of God.
I Corinthians 6:19
 - B. It is **NOT** a denominational group of congregations.
 - C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. The Church is the body of Christ – the saved multitudes from every nation.
 1. Writing to saved people, Paul states clearly in I Corinthians 12:27, “...ye are the body of Christ.”

2. Paul compares the church body to the human body in *I Corinthians 12:14-27*.
 - a. Each member has a different function – *verses 14-20*
 - b. No one member can function alone – *verse 21*
 - c. Each member's contribution is important – *verses 22-24*
 - d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit – *verses 25-27*.

II. Understand the biblical function of the local church?

A. According to *Acts 2:41-47*, the first local church in the Bible was organized for the following purposes:

1. Teaching the Word of God – *verse 42*
2. Fellowship with other believers – *verse 42*
3. Prayer – *verse 42*
4. Observance of the two ordinances of the church: baptism – *verse 41 and the Lord's supper – verse 42*
5. Testifying to God's grace and power – *verse 43*
6. Mutual assistance and ministry – *verses 44-45*
7. Reaching out into the community – *verses 46-47*
8. Glorifying and praising God – *verse 47*

B. The first priority of the local church is to edify (build up, teach, and strengthen) the saints.

Ephesians 4:11-16

III. Understand your function within the local church.

During your Christian life you should grow through three **broad** and **general** stages as outlined in *Ephesians 4:12*.

A. You are to be perfected as a saint. This is a time to observe and learn.

Your first priority should be submission to the teaching of the Word of God and learning to be the person God wants you to be.
Matthew 11:28-30

- B. You are to do the work of the ministry. This is a time to participate.

In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through the already established ministries of your church. *Matthew 4:19; James 1:22-25*

- C. You are to edify the body of Christ. This is a time to lead.

As your growth continues you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way others have ministered to you.

II Timothy 2:2

These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physical growth: childhood, youth, and adult. **BE PATIENT!** This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution – the local church.

IV. Basic questions.

If God moves me to another location, how do I find the particular local church through which God will want me to serve?

- A. Pray about it! Ask God to lead you to the right church.

James 1:5

- B. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a church.

1. Is there evidence of soul winning?

Matthew 7:20; Acts 2:47

2. Does the church leadership believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life?

Titus 1:9

3. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the bible as much as the leadership?

Acts 6:1

4. Do the people minister to the needs of others?

Acts 6:1

5. Does the church send out and support missionaries?

Acts 13:1-3

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Lesson #8

1. What are the three institutions God has established on earth?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

2. List some things that a church is **NOT**:

3. Define the following terms:
 - A. Local church
 - B. The church

4. In *1 Corinthians 12:14-27*, Paul teaches that in many ways the church body is similar to the _____ . List five parts of the body mentioned in this passage of scripture.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

E.

5. List four basic similarities between the church body and the human body.

A.

B.

C.

D.

6. The first local church in the Bible was at Jerusalem. In *Acts 2:41-47* we see this local church functioning. List the functional purposes found in this passage of scripture.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

7. What is the most important priority of a local church?

8. There is a proper order to follow as you function in the church body. List the three general stages connected with spiritual growth.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
9. How do these three stages of spiritual growth match up with the three stages of physical growth found in *1 John 2:12-14*?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
10. The Christian should be _____ because growing spiritually is a process which can only be properly accomplished within the established _____ of the _____ .
11. When a Christian is looking for a place to worship and serve, what qualities should be evident in that church?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:
*Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians
12:27; II Timothy 2:2*

NOTE: Many churches today are not fulfilling God’s plan because their primary attitudes are:

1. In order to really learn the Bible you need to go to a Bible College.
2. The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.
3. The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals, and religious holidays.
4. Only the “leadership” of the church is charged with any responsibility of meeting people’s spiritual needs.

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

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