

Foundations Lesson #1

The Word of God

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired by God and are the revelation of God to man. They are our infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. It is therefore most important that we search out God's word daily – reading it, obeying it, meditating upon it, and relying on it – as our source of inspiration, guidance, and power to live a godly life.

I. The Bible is God's word.

- The Bible was written by God the Holy Spirit.
 - II Timothy 3:16
 - II Peter 1:20-21
- The Bible is infallible.
 - John 10:35
 - Matthew 5:17-18
 - Numbers 23:19 / I Samuel 15:29
 - Proverbs 30:5
 - Psalm 12:6
 - Amos 3:7 (see handout on fulfilled prophecies)
- The Bible is God's revelation of himself.
 - Romans 16:25-27
 - Deuteronomy 29:29
- The Bible is not to be altered (no adding or subtracting is allowed).
 - Deuteronomy 4:2
 - Deuteronomy 12:32
 - Revelation 22:18-19

II. The Bible is powerful. Jesus used the Word of God to overcome the devil's temptations in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). How much more, then, do we need this power! The Scripture compares God's word to a fire (Jeremiah 20:9), a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29), and a sharp, double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12 / Ephesians 6:17).

- power to save – I Peter 1:23-24
- power to overcome sin – Psalm 119:11
- power to set free – John 8:31-32
- power to nourish spiritually – Hebrews 5:12-14
 - milk for the infant in the Lord
 - solid food for the mature in the Lord
- power to produce faith – Romans 10:17
- power to equip the man of God so that he is able to teach, rebuke, correct, and train in righteousness – II Timothy 3:16-17
- power to guide – Psalm 119:105
- power to make us wiser than our teachers – Psalm 119:99-100

- power to see prayer answered – John 15:7
- power to accomplish God's purposes – Isaiah 55:11
- power to keep us from error – Matthew 22:29
- power to benefit us greatly – Psalm 19:7-11
- and much, much more

III. We must absorb the message of the Bible into our lives. Jeremiah compares this process to the eating of food (Jeremiah 15:16). Healthy portions of God's word, well chewed and digested, will nourish us to be spiritually strong for every good work in Christ. The purpose in knowing the Bible is that we may better know the God of the Bible – knowing the Word of God positions us to be able to know the God of the Word.

- reading it
 - Ephesians 5:10
 - Ephesians 5:17
- believing it
 - John 20:31
 - Luke 24:25-27
- meditating on it
 - Joshua 1:8
 - Psalm 1:1-3
 - Psalm 119:48
- studying it
 - Ezra 7:10
 - II Timothy 3:14-15
- memorizing it
 - Psalm 119:11
 - the example of Jesus (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)
 - the example of Peter (Acts 2:15-21, 24-28, 34-35)
 - the example of Stephen (Acts 7:42-43, 48-50)
 - the example of Paul (Acts 13:32-41)
- obeying it - This is most important of all! If we don't, we only hurt ourselves.
 - Matthew 7:24-27
 - James 1:23-25
 - Psalm 119:4, 57, 60