

# HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

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**A Proper Approach:** The Bible is a book that demands a proper approach to benefit from its truth.

## Truth #1 — THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD.

A. Revelation – God has communicated Himself and His will to man through revelation.

1. General Revelation
2. Special Revelation

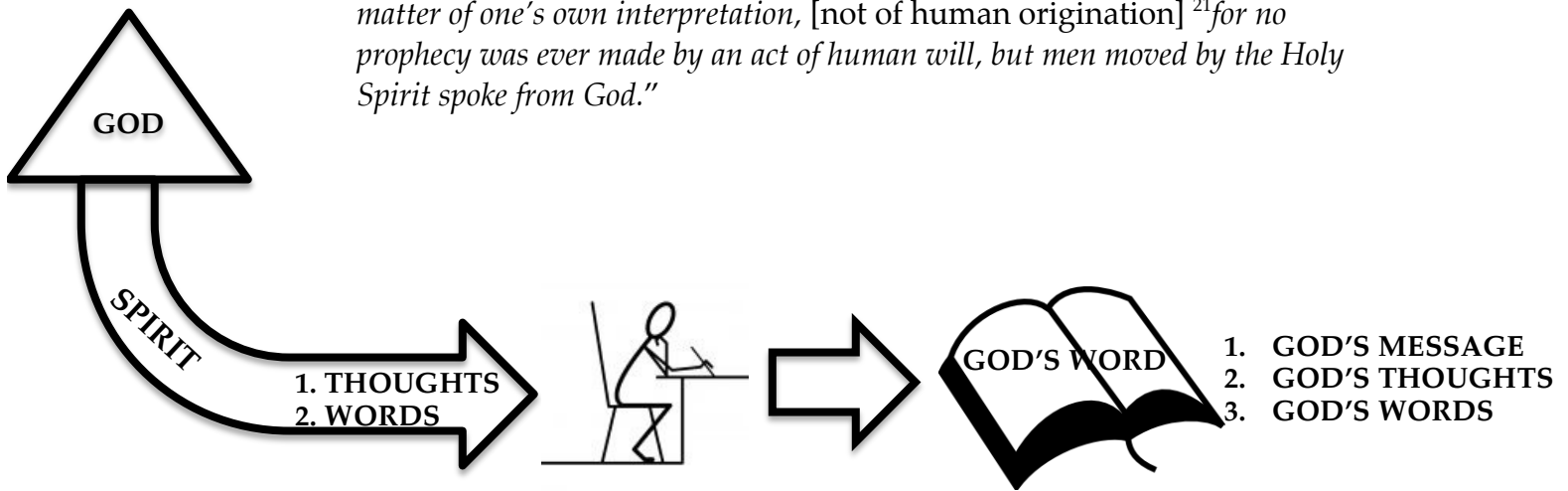
Thought: We have the intimate privilege of thinking God's thoughts after him as we study the Word... God's special revelation... which He revealed the Word which explains to us more clearly and more fully the purposes and plans of God. LET US NEVER TAKE GOD'S WORD FOR GRANTED! IT IS PURE TREASURE!

A proper approach to Holy Scripture welcomes the Bible as God's special revelation of Himself and His will.

B. Inspiration – God has personally guaranteed that His written revelation is true.

1. **1 Corinthians 2:12-13** *"<sup>12</sup>Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup>which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words."*

2. **2 Timothy 3:16–17** *“<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*
3. **2 Peter 1:20–21** *“<sup>20</sup>But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, [not of human origination] <sup>21</sup>for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*



Thought: Inspiration guarantees that what God wanted written was written, and what God meant is found in the written text. LET US NEVER TAKE GOD’S WORD FOR GRANTED! IT IS PURE TREASURE!

A proper approach to Holy Scripture welcomes the Bible as God’s inspired, inerrant Word.

C. Perspicuity – God has plainly communicated in this written revelation.

1. **Deuteronomy 30:11–14** ¶ *“<sup>11</sup>For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ <sup>13</sup>Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ <sup>14</sup>But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.”*
2. **Psalms 19:7–8** ¶ *“<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”*

3. **Psalm 119:105** ¶ “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
4. **Psalm 119:130** “The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”
5. **2 Peter 1:19** ¶ “So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”

Thought: While there are things that are difficult to understand and correlate in Scripture (cf. 2 Pet 3:15–16), the *central message* is clear:

- (1) Creation;
- (2) Man’s fall into sin;
- (3) God’s provision of redemption;
- (4) How to obtain God’s provision;
- (5) The consummation to come.

It is a good thing or we would all be in trouble. LET US NEVER TAKE GOD’S WORD FOR GRANTED! IT IS PURE TREASURE!

A proper approach to Holy Scripture welcomes the Bible as plainly written to guide “*simple*” men and women in God’s truth.

D. Preservation – God has providentially guarded this written revelation throughout the history of its transmission.

1. We have the right books.
2. We have the right words.

Thought: It is an amazing blessing that God has preserved His Word providentially. The evidence is vast, old, and spreads across the geography of the ancient world. The evidence is also public. If you wanted to and had the skills you could work your way through the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew evidence. There is no chance of collusion or fraud. Bottom line, the public evidence demands the verdict that the preserved text is trustworthy.

LET US NEVER TAKE GOD’S WORD FOR GRANTED! IT IS PURE TREASURE! A proper approach to Holy Scripture welcomes the Bible as the providentially preserved text of God that is trustworthy.

## Truth # 2 — THE BIBLE IS GOD'S POWERFUL WORD.

### A. God's powerful word called into existence all creation.

*"Then God said, Let there be... and there was...." (Gen 1:3).*

### B. God's powerful word calls the spiritually dead to spiritual life.

1. **2 Timothy 3:14–15** *"<sup>14</sup>You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*
2. **Romans 10:17** *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*
3. **John 20:30–31** ¶ *"<sup>30</sup>Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."*

### C. God's powerful word can take the miserable, wretched, believing sinner and transform him or her into the image of God's Son.

1. **2 Corinthians 3:17–18** *"<sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*
2. **2 Timothy 3:16–17** *"<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*
3. **Psalms 1:1–3** ¶ *"<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup>He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers."*
4. **Romans 12:1–2** ¶ *"<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be*

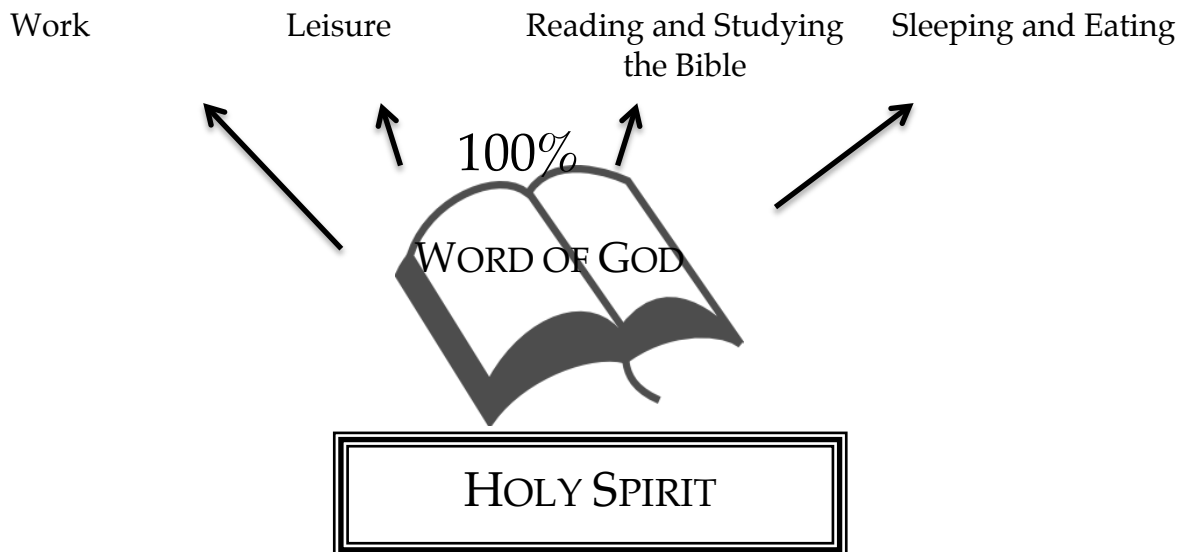
*transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

D. God's powerful word will be the basis for mankind's judgment.

1. **Romans 2:16** *"on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."*
2. **Hebrews 4:12-13** *"<sup>12</sup>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 thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>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."*

**Truth #3 — APPROACH GOD'S WORD WITH A STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO HEAR IT AND DO IT.**

- A. Genuine Humility – Examine yourself in relationship to the above truth. Ask yourself probing questions and answer them truthfully.
- B. God-Given Purpose – Get a firm, well-rounded grasp on what the Holy Spirit expects from you as you study God's Word.



- C. Faithful Commitment – Make a strong commitment to more faithfully HEAR THE WORD AND DO THE WORD.