

WEEK TWO: THE BIBLE/HEARING FROM GOD!

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD. WE CAN TRUST IT. IT WAS TRUE WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN. IT IS TRUE FOR TODAY, AND IT WILL BE TRUE FOR TOMORROW.

Because the Bible is the source of Christian faith, it is very important how we regard the Bible, how we can discover the truths revealed in the Bible, and to what extent we can understand what the Bible teaches.

1. The Bible is our source of information about God—who He is and what He has done for us.
2. The Bible is a revelation of man—his character, history, and spiritual needs.
3. The Bible also tells us about God’s plan of salvation, which provides forgiveness and renewal for man in his sinful situation.
4. The Bible reveals what God’s standards of right and wrong are and what His will is for His creatures.
5. Christian faith is one of hope for the future, and the Bible alone can chart the course of our future into eternity. It would be difficult to overemphasize the importance of the Bible and what it reveals.

THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONLY RELIABLE INTERPRETER OF THE BIBLE.

2 PETER 1:19-21, We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit

GOD NEVER CONTRADICTS HIMSELF. PEOPLE HAVE CONTRADICTED THE BIBLE BY INTERPRETING IT TO WHAT THEY WANT IT TO MEAN FOR THEMSELVES, INSTEAD OF TAKING AND READING IT IN ITS LITERAL FORM, AND ALSO KNOWING HOW TO INTERPRET IT PROPERLY (Hermeneutics, the **study** of the general principles of **biblical interpretation**).

“A PERSON WHO HAS A BIBLE THAT IS FALLING APART AS A LIFE THAT IS NOT”: A PERSON WHO IS DOING AND BELIEVING, APPLICATOR OF THE WORD AND NOT JUST READER, LEARNER AND LISTENER.

JAMES 1: 22-25, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do”.

THE WORD OF GOD CAN'T JUST BE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. IT CAN'T BE JUST FOR HEAD KNOWLEDGE. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BIBLE IS TO TRANSFORM PEOPLE, THIS IS WHY IT IS A **“ACTIVE AND ALIVE BOOK”**. IT IS NOT JUST SOME TEXT BOOK, AN ANCIENT BOOK OF HISTORY THAT IS OUTDATED AND NOT NEEDED FOR MODERN TIMES. IT IS GOD'S WORD THAT WAS INSPIRED BY GOD, AND EVERY SINGLE BOOK OF THE BIBLE IS THERE FOR YOU TO HEAR FROM GOD.

GOD IS UNCHANGING AND SO THEREFORE IS HIS WORD!

THE MESSAGE OF GOD IS TIMELESS. THE WORD DOES NOT CHANGE.

THERE ARE MANY TRANSLATIONS AND BIBLE TRANSLATIONS ARE A GIFT AND SOMETIMES A PROBLEM.

WHY SO MANY TRANSLATIONS? BECAUSE There are many audiences and many different kinds of readers. **AS TIME MARCHES ON, PEOPLE SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND DIFFERENTLY.**

ITS JUST THE CHANGE OF WORDS, BUT NOT THE CHANGE OF MEANING. GOD DESIRES THAT ALL GENERATIONS UNDERSTAND HIS WORD. WE ALL COMMUNICATE DIFFERENTLY. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS WHEN YOU LEARN TO ALLOW GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU, WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS YOU READ, STUDY, ASK QUESTIONS, HE WILL REVEAL THE TRUTH: BUT YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE YOUR VOICE TO GOD'S VOICE. **WE ARE NOT CALLED TO CHANGE THE BIBLE, BUT THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN TO CHANGE US!**

AS TIME PAST, THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE CHANGES. You should decide what kind of reader you are and estimate your reading level. Are you seeking a literal translation or one that provides a thought-for-thought presentation? Do you prefer the historic dignity of the *King James Version*, the widely accepted and respected *New International Version*, or the very readable and contemporary *New Living Translation*?

- The *King James Version* is loved for the majesty of its language and for the way God has used it in ministering to millions down through the centuries. Some Christians feel that no other translation can possibly replace it.
- The *New International Version* is today the most widely distributed and utilized translation in the world. It is a thought-for-thought translation, but employs a moderately traditional tone that makes it appropriate for both public worship and personal reading.
- A recent translation that is gaining widespread acceptance and uses contemporary terminology is the *New Living Translation*. It is both accurate and very readable.
- Another widely used translation is the *New American Standard Bible*, which is a more literal rendition.
- The *New Revised Standard Version*, is a contemporary thought-for-thought translation.
- Many Roman Catholic readers prefer the *New Jerusalem Bible*

Each translation has the power to transform your life. Though the cadence and the terminology may differ, the voice of God can speak to you through each one. Then the question remains: how will you respond to God's voice as He speaks to you from the pages of this life-changing book.

SEEK TO TRANSFER MEANING, NOT MERELY THE WORDS.

GOD LONGS TO HAVE HIS WORD EXPRESSED IN EVERY LANGUAGE IN A WAY THAT WOULD UNLOCK THE PASSION OF HIS HEART.

CHRISTIANS NEED TO: STUDY, MEDITATE, MEMORIZE, PRAY INTO, BE SLOW TO READ AND LEARN, AND NOT TO QUICK TO ASSUME WHAT THEY HAVE READ!

THE BIBLE:

- **GUIDES WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO (BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW).**
- **IT BUILDS US UP. ENCOURAGES US.**
- **IT GIVES US THE PROMISES TO LIVE ON, AND WHEN WE DO WE ARE BETTER OFF FOR IT.**

1. BASICS OF THE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN TOTAL. OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT.

- **OLD TESTAMENT:** the first part of the Christian Bible, comprising thirty-nine books and corresponding approximately to the Hebrew Bible. Most of the books were originally written in Hebrew, some in Aramaic, between about 1200 and 100 BC. They comprise the chief texts of the law, history, prophecy, and wisdom literature of the ancient people of Israel.

THE FIRST 5 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: PENTATEUCH

- **NEW TESTAMENT:** the second part of the Christian Bible, written originally in Greek and recording the life and teachings of Jesus and his earliest followers. It includes the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, twenty-one epistles by St. Paul and others, and the book of Revelation.
- **The contents of the Bible make clear that it has to be supernatural in its origin because the Bible includes revelation beyond the scope of people's knowledge. The Bible also presents God's point of view of human activity and history, which would be impossible to learn unless God Himself revealed it.**
- The earliest collection of written words from God was the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments form the beginning of the biblical canon. God himself wrote on two tablets of stone the words which he commanded his people.

2. STUDY/READ THE BIBLE: HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE: PROPER INTERPRETATION.

- **UNDERSTAND THE AUTHOR. (COMMENTARIES: BAKER). UNDERSTAND THE STYLE OF WRITING OF THE AUTHOR. KNOW THE PERSON OF THE AUTHOR: FOR EXAMPLE: PETER WAS A BOLD WRITER. PAUL (WHAT HE SAID WAS RECORDED) WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD SPEAKER. FOR EXAMPLE; DAVID WAS A POET AND THE BOOK OF PSALMS IS POETRY.**
- **WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THE AUTHOR, YOU MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND: WHY DID THE AUTHOR WRITE THE BOOK (PURPOSE), WHO WAS HE WRITING TO (AUDIENCE).**
- **UNDERSTAND THE CULTURE SETTING, SITUATIONS. MANY FACTORS ALSO CAME INTO PLAY AS THE BIBLICAL AUTHORS RECORDED: NOT**

JUST THAT THEY WERE INSPIRED BY GOD, OR THEY WROTE BASED ON WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT, EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, ETC..BUT ALSO THEIR CULTURE WORLDVIEW WAS ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

- **ALSO, GOOD TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE DID NOT HAVE THE FULL BIBLE AS WE HAVE IT TODAY. THEY WOULD HAVE HAD THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIBES, AND THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT VERY WELL.**
- **ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE (HEBREW, GREEK, ARAMAIC).**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO SINGLE WORDS, SENTENCES, AND THE GENRE. WHEN YOU ARE READING A SINGLE PASSAGE, ALWAYS READ THE FULL CHAPTER AND OR BOOK.**
- **PARALLEL/COMPARE SCRIPTURES. EXAMPLE: THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE).** The **gospels** of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the **synoptic Gospels** because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. JOHN IS NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME MAJOR DIFFERENCES.

3. MEMORIZE SCRIPTURES: WHY SHOULD WE MEMORIZE SCRIPTURES?

- Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.
- As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.
- Keeps us directed to the truth: **Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”.**
- Daily Victory over satan. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight (Matthew 4:1-11).
- The very word of God spoken spontaneously from your heart has unusual power. Proverbs 25:11 says, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” That is a beautiful way of saying, *When the heart full of God’s love can draw on the mind full of God’s word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.* HELPS OTHERS.
- Opportunities to share the gospel come when we do not have the Bible in hand. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that

they are precious enough to learn. **We should all be able to sum up the gospel under four main headings: 1) God's holiness/law/glory; 2) man's sin/rebellion/disobedience; 3) Christ's death for sinners; 4) the free gift of life by faith.** Learn a verse or two relating to each of these, and be ready in season and out of season to share them.

- The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes. Therefore, storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is. For example, imagine being able to call this to mind through the day: **PSALM 103:8-14, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust"**

4. **MEDITATE: THIS IS NOT STUDYING. THIS IS STAYING ON ONE SINGLE PASSAGE FOR DAYS IF NEEDED. THIS IS ASKING GOD TO REVEAL TO YOU WHAT HE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH THE PASSAGE. THIS IS FOCUSING ON ONE PASSAGE THAT IS PERSONALLY APPLICABLE TO YOU FOR A PARTICULAR SITUATION. (EX: PROVERBS 3:5-6).**
5. **LOGOS: WRITTEN WORD OF GOD. ITS FOR THE GENERAL AUDIENCE. TOTAL INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. EXAMPLE: MATTHEW 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings <logos> of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock**
6. **RHEMA: THE GREEK WORD FOR "WORD". REFERS TO THE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD. RHEMA MEANS AN UTTERANCE (INDIVIDUALLY FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) EXAMPLE: MARK 14:72, A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word <rHEMA> that Jesus had said to him, "Before**

the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And when he thought about it, he wept.

7. **PRAYING INTO SCRIPTURE:** To pray using Scripture, ask the following three questions:

1. **What about a passage gives you reason to rejoice, to give thanks and praise?**
2. **Is there something about this passage that reveals sin in my own life that should lead me to repentance?**
3. **Does the passage lead me to make a request of God for myself or others?**

8. **INTERCESSARY PRAYER INTO SCRIPTURES: EXAMPLE: PSALM 67: 3-7, “MAY THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU, O GOD. YES, MAY ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU. LET THE WHOLE WORLD SING FOR JOY, BECAUSE YOU GOVERN THE NATIONS WITH JUSTICE AND GUIDE THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD. MAY THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU, OH GOD. YES, MAY ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE YOU. THEN THE EARTH WILL YIELD ITS HARVESTS, AND GOD, OUR GOD, WILL RICHLY BLESS US. YES, GOD WILL BLESS US, AND PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL FEAR HIM”.**

PRAYER: Father we thank you for your guidance, your goodness and mercy. Father God we praise your name for who you are. For your greatness and holiness. We bow down to you and we adore you. We pray Lord for our nations and we declare that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are King above all kings. We intervene for all the nations and as your Word declares, may the whole world sing for joy because you govern the nations with justice and guide the people. You are in control Lord and we left up this world to you. May you and only you be glorified. Forgive us when we place idols in our lives. We pray for our nation of Canada and beyond. We pray that our government will be a god-fearing government. We pray for our neighbours, our families, our towns and places of work. Lord we pray for salvations. We pray for harvests and godly workers to go out boldly sharing the Good News that you are Lord and Saviour and you Jesus Christ is the ONLY WAY. We love you. In Jesus name, Amen.

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

- The single most important book that you will ever read and that was ever written.
- It is an eyewitness account of factual historical events of such magnitude that it has literally shaped the world in which we live.
- It is one of the most published and printed books in history. It has been printed in just about every known language (including Braille).
- The Bible was the first book every put to the printing press.
- This book has been praised, cursed, restricted, banned, desecrated, burned and fought over. People swear on it and at it. Some have tried to eliminate it, but ALL HAVE FAILED.
- People have suffered exquisite tortures and loss of freedom and even their lives for printing it, sharing it, and teaching from it.
- This book is both hated and loved. One read it would be impossible to be indifferent to it. It will provoke either a strong response in either a positive or negative direction.
- The Bible has liberated many from oppression by its clear teachings. It raises the dignity and rights of every human being ever born.

STUDENT'S WORK

Why do you think IT IS VITAL TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE?

_____.

The Bible is **“THE”** and **“A”** way that God SPEAKS to us.

It is the primary way that God speaks to us, but not the only way (STAY tuned for the HEARING FROM GOD COURSE THAT WILL BE OFFERED IN THE NEAR FUTURE @ LACOMBE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH)

What other ways do God speak to us? What other vessels? For example: worship songs

_____.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV), “**All** Scripture is **God-breathed** and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly **equipped** for every good work”

God uses it to _____ AND _____
His people to do every good work. READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (NLT VERSION FOR ANSWER)

The Bible is the _____ OF GOD. THE _____ OF GOD.
It is a _____, _____ (living in the sense that it CHANGES YOU). (WATCH VIDEO FOR ANSWER).
It is the _____ for Christian _____
and _____. (Watch video for answer).

When we are unsure of a belief or action is true, we SHOULD GO TO WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURES.

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is **alive and powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires” (NLT)

What do you think it means that the Word of God is ALIVE AND POWERFUL?

How have you experienced the Word of God alive and active in your life?

ON THIS JOURNEY GET EXCITED FOR THE WORD OF GOD. BE EXCITED TO TEACH IT, READ IT, STUDY IT, MEDITATE ON IT, AND SHARE IT.

PSALM 119:105, "YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO GUIDE MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH"

What are some practical ways THAT WE CAN study the Bible? _____

_____ **. Ex: Group Bible studies.**

There are great commentaries and other resources to help you as you study the Bible. Get your Pastors suggestions as some commentaries are better than others.

A Study Application Bible is VERY HELPFUL!

Start a Bible reading plan today.

However, you read the Bible, dive in and partner with the Holy Spirit as He is the way to guide and direct you WITH THIS MOST AWESOME WORD OF GOD.

The Scriptures are the authority as the Scriptures are God's Holy Word.

