

# STUDY THE BIBLE

## *Six Easy Steps* WORKBOOK

Second Edition

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ISBN: 9798987505731

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# About this Study Guide

Studying the Bible is a core activity of the healthy Christian life.

From the earliest days of the church, the model has been for Christians do dig into God's Word to understand how to live their lives (Acts 17:10-11).

Scripture itself is identified as the final source for establishing right thinking, exposing error, applying correction and instructing the believer in right living (2 Timothy 3:16).

Despite the scriptural imperative, most adult Christians have not been taught the fundamentals of how to study the Bible.

This instructional guide, intended for normal believers, will introduce you to the basic skills needed to study the bible. It lays a foundation of knowledge which can be expanded later with more in-depth levels of study.

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# 01

# What is the Bible?

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**How you view the Bible dictates how you study it**

# How we view the Bible drives how we study it

How would you read the Bible if it were ...

**A Newspaper**

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**A Novel**

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**A Textbook**

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**A Fortune Cookie**

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Everyone has an opinion about the Bible.

We all think of it in a specific way. Perhaps it's something that was modeled for us when we were younger or impressionable. Maybe it's something that we picked up from our peers or those around us. It could be that we pieced together our thoughts about the Bible from bits and snatches at church. For some, we have no idea what to think about the Bible and just make it up as we go along.

These opinions we bring with us are not free. In fact, they have a real impact on how we view the Bible and what we expect from it. From instilling reverence to determining what we choose to read to impacting how we understand it, our opinions are vitally important.

Before we begin, we need to look at these opinions about the Bible.

# The Bible is communication from God

**Psalm 119:11** – By knowing God’s word (memorizing it), we can avoid sinning and live a life pleasing to God.

**Psalm 119:105** – God’s word provides direction and instruction for living.

**Proverbs 30:5** – God’s word is pure and untainted. It serves as a shield for those who trust in God.

**John 6:67-68** – Peter recognized that what Jesus was saying was different than everyone else and the key to life (eternal).

**Acts 6:7** – When the Word of God increased (was presented more boldly, more often), the church grew.

**Hebrews 4:12** – The word of God has power and effect in our lives.

Traditionally we say, “the Bible is the Word of God.”

This statement is foundational to our understanding of the Bible and defines its priority in Bible study.

In everyday conversation we use words to communicate to each other. God chose to use the same communication and expressed Himself in words – which we have today as the Bible.

# God is the author of the Bible

The Bible was “breathed out” by God through human hands.

**2 Peter 1:19-21** - The Holy Spirit was the motive force in its creation.

**2 Timothy 3:16** - God breathed, profitable to define truth, identify error, correct wrong thinking, leading back to the right path.

Even though as many as 39 individual people are attributed as having written books, God is the ultimate author. The verses in 2 Peter and 2 Timothy make it very clear that God was present in the writing. “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Here we see 2 members of the trinity involved in the writing of the scriptures.

The beauty of God’s authorship of the Bible is that He allowed the individual people to express His message in their own voice, using their own unique style and words. Read a passage in the gospel of John and compare it to a passage in Hebrews, 1 Corinthians or Isaiah. They all sound very different. That’s because different people were involved with God to put the words down.

Because God is the ultimate author, we see, through study, that the Bible is consistent and has one clear message that flows from Genesis to Revelation.

# We find no error in the Bible

Doctrine of Inerrancy:

**The teaching that the Bible is without error.**

A doctrine is a teaching that is held to be true, often the foundation of a system of belief or faith.

## The Bible is inerrant

Inerrant means “without error”. Since the Bible is the Word of God, it carries the character and nature of God (God cannot speak contrary to His nature). Since God is true, complete, and trustworthy, His Word bears these same distinctions.

ALL of the Bible is inerrant – it does not “contain” the Word of God; it IS the Word of God. If some of it is not trustworthy, then none of it can be trustworthy and all of it is under a cloud of doubt.

Inerrancy applies to the original writing of the Bible. These originals have been, through the providence of God, carefully copied and maintained. They give us the manuscripts we have today, which are the basis of our English translations.

# The Bible is our authority

Everywhere and every time the Bible speaks, it speaks with the words and voice of God.

What the Bible says is God saying it. Since God is the author, and is in control of what the Bible says, we give the words of the Bible the same weight and authority as if God sat down with us and said the words directly to us.

There is no authority over God (Romans 13:1). He is the ultimate authority and is above every other authority that we will encounter or can imagine. All authority flows from God, and His word is the voice of that authority.

Everything the Bible says is with the authority of God!

What is our proper relationship to the Bible?

**Psalm 1:1-2** - The Old Testament extols the person who lives by obeying the Word of God

**2 Timothy 2:15** – Our right relationship is to study God’s word – so that we handle it rightly

If you want to hear God speak to you, read your Bible. If you want to hear God speak audibly, read out loud!

# Meaning & communication

The purpose of communication is to deliver a specific message from a sender (speaker) to a receiver (listener or reader).

The message is determined by the sender. It is not appropriate for the receiver to try to determine the message.

Any deviation from the sender's intention in the receiver's understanding is called "miscommunication".

The Bible is God's Word to us; therefore, it has a specific meaning.

2 Peter 1:16-21 – The Bible has no private interpretation (hidden meanings, custom messages)

Each passage has one meaning, although it may have several implications (these are not the meaning), and many applications.

What it means "to me"

It's common and familiar to talk about what the Bible means "to me". As a student of the Bible, this is not a proper approach. God says the same words to everyone, with the same meaning.

The message of the Bible is the message. Period. How a person chooses to apply that message varies from person to person. But the meaning remains the same for everyone.

# The Bible impacts your life right now!

It is not enough to know the truth about the Bible. For the truth to have any impact, it must affect the way you live your life. The impact of the truth is directly proportional to how much it affects you and the way you live.

Do you show respect to your Bible that matches your reverence for its contents?

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How often do you read the Bible? Is it enough?

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Do you understand what it says; are you striving to go deeper?

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In what areas of your life do you need to begin to obey what you read in the bible?

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