

God's Word | Make Disciples

Reading the Bible will change your life! It will bring you comfort, joy, spiritual victories, and help you know God better!

It is important to understand the words Bible, Scripture, and Word of God all refer to the same thing. The Bible is the Scripture and is also referred to as the Word of God! They are interchangeable.

1. The Bible will feed your soul
2. The Bible will become your guiding light
3. The Bible will become a moral compass
4. The Bible will become a source of great power and strength
5. The Bible is like a mighty sword
6. The Bible will help you know and love Jesus more

1. The Bible is a _____ Book.

Do you know that the Bible comes from God?

16 All Scripture is inspired by God (God breathed) and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

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The Bible is no ordinary book! It is not just one amazing piece of literature among the greats!

The Bible is God _____ and God _____.

In 2 Peter 1:21, we learn that the Bible wasn't made or written by human will, but was written as men were moved by the Holy Spirit and spoke for God!

2. Jesus _____ on God's Word.

Jesus' own life is our greatest _____ of the importance of God's word.

Which one of these statements is True?

1. Jesus had a lot of knowledge and insight into what was in the Scriptures
2. Jesus had many parts of the Scriptures memorized
3. Jesus depended upon the Word of God every day
4. Jesus used the Scriptures like a sword to fight off temptation from the Devil

Let's read a story from the very beginning of Jesus' ministry right after he was baptized. Notice how important the word of God was in Jesus' life and how He used the Scriptures to fight temptation.

*1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil came and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God**, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus told him, "No! **The Scriptures say**, 'People do not **live by** bread alone, but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:1-4 (NLT)*

Here, the devil is trying to tempt Jesus to use his power for selfish reasons.

- Jesus had not eaten in 40 days! Realize, Jesus had the power to turn the stones into bread, but he wouldn't be led by his personal desires or Satan's temptation.

What does Jesus do? He quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

- Jesus quotes this Scripture; He literally says it out loud!
- He uses the Bible like a sword which gives Him power over temptation!

Notice how Jesus handled the next two temptations, He continues the pattern of quoting Scripture to fight temptation:

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

*7 Jesus responded, "**The Scriptures also say**, 'You must not test the LORD your*

God.'" (see Deuteronomy 6:16)

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and all their glory. 9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the **Scriptures say**, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'" (see Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20) - Matthew 4:5-10 (NLT)

Jesus had verses of the Bible memorized and when he needed it, Jesus quoted the scripture out loud.

- It is clear that Jesus read the Bible, studied the Bible, and memorized the Scriptures so that when he needed Scripture it was there in His mind.
- Jesus used the Bible as a sword and fought away temptation by quoting the scriptures out loud!

The Bible is truly the Word of God, and it functions like a spiritual sword (Ephesians 6:17).

- When you think about Scripture and speak it out loud in faith like Jesus did, you will have victory over your problems, issues, and temptations.

The Bible was so important to Jesus that before he even began His earthly ministry, He had put God's holy Word in His heart and filled his mind with the Scriptures.

If Jesus, the Son of God, needed and relied on the Word of God to fight and overcome his spiritual battles... How much more do we need to know how to use God's Word to overcome evil and temptation?

Reflect: *When you face problems or temptations in your life, what do you typically rely on? Do you believe that God's Word can change your life?*

3. You Need to _____ on God's Word.

Along your spiritual journey you need to feast on the Word of God!

Like newborn babies, **crave pure spiritual milk**, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation - 1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

As newborn babies, in the beginning of our spiritual journey, we all need to feast on God's Word.

→ Did you know? A newborn can nurse over 10 times each day! God is saying to us that like a nursing baby, we should hunger for God's word! If we read, think about, and memorize scriptures, we will grow into mature disciples!

Reflect: *We have probably all binged on a TV show or know someone who has... What if you become someone who binges on God's word? What would your life look like if you really FEASTED on God's Word instead of other things?*

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you** into a new person **by changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. - Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

We need to fill our minds and hearts with God's word! If we read the Bible, think about the Bible, and memorize sections of the Bible, we will be transformed and grow in our salvation!

*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. - Joshua 1:8 (NIV)*

The word meditate means to _____ and _____ about.

- Speak the word
- Meditate on the Bible day and night
- Be careful to do everything that is written in it
- Then you will be prosperous and successful

The Psalmist put it this way!

*9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By **living according to your word**. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have **hidden your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you. - Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)*

The Bible is clear: how do we keep our lives pure and not sin against God?

- Live according to God's word
- Seek God with all your heart
- Hide God's word in your heart

How do we put this into practice?

1. Read at least a chapter of the Bible each day.
2. Start with the Book of John and then read through the rest of the New Testament
3. As you read, ask God to help you know Him better and understand His word.
4. Memorize a few scriptures that deal with the areas that you are struggling with.

Helpful Scriptures to Memorize

Below are 8 important scripture that can help new believers in their spiritual journey. These scriptures have strengthened and encouraged many believers. Read them, meditate on them, and start memorizing them so you can be like Jesus, and when Satan tempts you, quote God's Word and see victories in your circumstances and situations!

1. "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." - Philippians 1:6 (NLT)
2. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)
3. "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." - Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)
4. "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." - 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)
5. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." - Psalm 119:9-10 (NIV)
6. "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD GOD is the eternal Rock" - Isaiah 26:3-4 (NLT)
7. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8 (NIV)
8. "We love because he first loved us. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." - 1 John 4:19, 21 (NIV)

How to use Scripture to overcome temptation.

→ *Here is an example of how to use scripture to overcome a destructive sexual temptation that may come in the form of thoughts...*

→ When your thoughts start leading you in a direction that isn't pleasing to God begin to think on, read, and quote a Scripture like 1 Corinthians 10:13

◆ *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. - 1 Cor 10:13*

→ Read and reread the above scripture it will give you faith that you can say no to the temptation and that you can find a way not to engage in that sin.

→ Remember the Bible is like a sword so read and memorize it and speak it out of your mouth and you will be given victory!

Reflect: *Pick one of the Scriptures listed in the "Helpful Scriptures" section, read it out loud, and explain how you would use it during a temptation or stress.*

Close in Prayer.