



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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## The Bible

While many view the Bible as a book full of wisdom, it is much more than just helpful sayings and advice. The Bible claims to be the Word of God. It is a source of hope and is able to bring about change in people's lives. The Bible's remarkable unity and coherence confirm its authenticity. It reveals a single Author - the Holy Spirit - behind the diversity of its human writers. The Bible is not just a jumble of characters, places, and dates. Both the fact and the message of the Bible are closely and amazingly interconnected to reveal God's Son, Jesus Christ, and His part in human redemption and restoration. The sixty-six books of the Bible fit together as one book with one theme: Jesus Christ.

- The Bible Claims To Be The Word Of God

*2 Timothy 3:16, 17* <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible is the complete Word of God. We cannot pick and choose passages that we agree with and ignore those passages that stretch our character, behavior, and beliefs. Since the Bible comes directly from God, we can trust the truth of what it says. God exists outside of time and knew us before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Because of that, God's Word is as completely applicable for our lives today as when it was originally written.

Writers of the Bible did not communicate merely their own thoughts or ideas (2 Peter 1:20, 21). This would have been inadequate, and we could not have trusted their words to have the same power and authority as God's words. God inspired the writers and told them what to say. He has protected the accuracy of His Word and has protected its ability to survive for more than 2,000 years (Matthew 5:18).

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- The Bible Is Reliable And Consistent

*1 Corinthians 2:14* "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The apostle Paul explains why non-Christians may have difficulty understanding the Bible. We must trust God for what we do not easily understand. Some people might suggest that the Bible is inconsistent or contains inaccurate information. This is not true. Though there are some portions of the Bible that cannot be readily explained in human terms (the creation of the world, Noah's ark, Joshua's long day, Jonah's fish, and the Virgin Birth, to name a few), this does not mean that they are inaccurate or impossible (Psalm 119:160).

- The Bible Is Confirmed In The Life Of Christ And The Early Church

*Matthew 4:4* "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus quoted these words from Deuteronomy 8:3 in reply to Satan, who was trying to tempt Him. Both Jesus and the apostles quoted Scripture. This verse is just one of many examples throughout the New Testament. By quoting Scripture, they confirmed the importance of mediating on and memorizing God's Word. The Bible is also full of prophecies that have already been fulfilled, as well as those that are yet to be fulfilled. We can depend on the perfect accuracy of anything reported in the Bible.

The historical church has also recognized and used the Bible as God's inspired record of Himself and His will. The Bible is the ultimate rule of faith and practice for the church. History and archaeology combine to confirm the accuracy of the Bible at many points. Many of the places mentioned in the Bible can easily be identified, even today. Hundreds of archaeological sites have uncovered ample evidence of its accuracy. Ancient manuscripts of the Bible have been preserved and are available for examination.

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- The Bible Is A Source Of Encouragement And Hope

*Acts 20:32<sup>32</sup> "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."*

For Christians, God's Word is the source of spiritual understanding, faith, and fulfillment. Luke, the writer of Acts, lovingly entrusts his readers into the care of God's Word, which is "able to build you up." We find the Bible to be a patient teacher. Within its pages are help and encouragement for whatever we need: "*This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life*" (Psalm 119:50). God uses the Bible to speak to us about His will, His love, and His character. When we read the Bible, we can be assured that it is the actual voice of God.

*Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." We do not need to fear the Word of God. It was written to help and strengthen us: "My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word" (Psalm 119:28). The Bible is the only book that gives answers to life's ultimate questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? If reading the Bible is not encouraging, or if you feel condemned by reading it, ask God to reveal the source of that condemnation. Perhaps you have unconfessed sin, or you feel unnecessarily guilty. You can also talk with the Pastor or other mature Christians for help in understanding parts of the Bible that may confuse or concern you.*

- The Bible Is A Great Treasure

*Psalm 119:162<sup>162</sup> "I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure."*

A closed Bible, even leather-bound with gold-edged pages, is worthless until you open it and find the treasures within.

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All 176 verses of Psalm 119 are a beautiful tribute to the importance and value of making God's Word part of our daily lives. The writer eloquently praises God for His Word and tells how it can transform our lives if we:

- Read it regularly (verse 123).
- Study it (verse 130).
- Meditate on it (verse 97).
- Memorize it (verse 11).
- Obey it (verse 101).
- Cherish it (verse 127).

We miss great blessings if we take God's Word for granted. Stories abound of Christians in poor or persecuted countries who risk life and limb and give a month's wages or more for just a page of the Bible to call their own. When we learn to cherish God's Word, it has the power to change our lives.

- The Bible Is Effective For Change

*Hebrews 4:12 <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The truth of the Bible is confirmed by its power to transform lives: *"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word" (Psalm 119:9)*. The Bible is the only book that provides doctrine, correction, and teaching, preparing us to do the work of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). God promises that His Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). Because of that promise, we know that as we study, meditate on, and memorize Bible verses, God will use them to bear fruit in our lives. The Bible is intended for more than just reading. God gave it to us to help transform our hearts and lives.

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