

Holy Bible

Word of God



Basic Beliefs //
GOSPEL SERIES



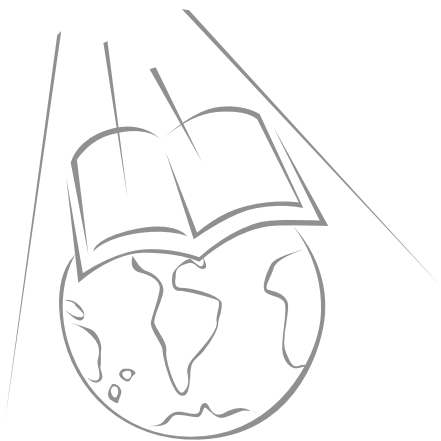
True Jesus Church

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If you would like to learn more about the Bible after reading this booklet, additional free literature is available. Please see the contact information on the opposite page.



The Bible is God's self-revelation to the world. God speaks to us through the prophets, the apostles, and His own Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible also records God's interactions with men throughout history, focusing on the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ—God's greatest gift to the world.

Through these historical events and divine messages, the Bible shows us who God is, where human beings came from, and what God expects from us. It explains how we have all rebelled against God, how God has sent His Son to the world to reconcile the world to Him, and what happens in the afterlife. The Bible is a letter from God with a most important message about man's origin, purpose, and eternal destiny.

A BOOK WITH AUTHORITY

Since the Bible is God's word, it carries divine authority. "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). God's word is eternal; it does not change over time. "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:24–25). Generations come and go, the trends and philosophies of this world rise and fade; but the Bible and its teachings are timeless, transforming more lives than any other book in history.

God's word is as solemn and binding as an oath. Therefore no one has the authority to alter any portion of the Scripture. God instructed the Israelites, "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32). It is our duty to follow God's commands and to hold the authority of the entire Bible in reverence.



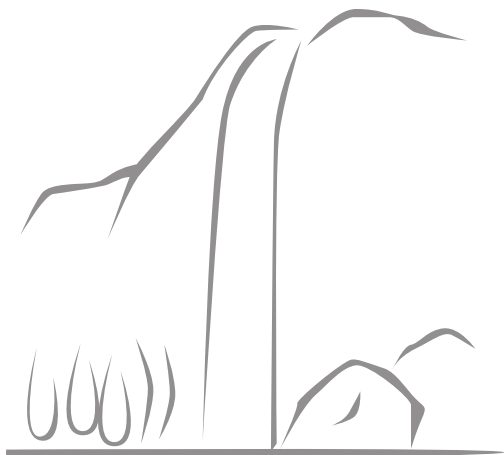
A BOOK THAT WORKS

The Bible is much more than a book to be read and enjoyed. Behind the literary beauty of the text lie the powerful promises of God. As we learn about, meditate on, and practice the teachings of the Bible, God works wonders in our lives. The Lord is faithful to all His promises; His words never fail. Through the ages, believers have personally experienced the fulfillment of God's promises in their lives. They can testify that, indeed, "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

The Lord said, "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10–11).

The word of God turns the parched land of our hearts into fertile soil, giving purpose and meaning to our lives.





WORD OF LIFE

The Bible is able to instruct us “for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). In other words, the Bible teaches us how to receive salvation and what true faith in Christ means. God’s word as found in the Bible has the power to save us. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

It is not the text of the Bible that gives eternal life, but the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Because the Bible bears witness to Jesus Christ and directs our faith to the Savior, we can receive salvation by trusting and obeying all that is written in the Bible, which is the word of God.



The word of God carries a life-giving power. God “gives birth” to believers through the word of truth (James 1:18). When we give our lives to Jesus Christ and obey Him as Lord, we can live a new life and have the hope of eternal life. “You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God... That word is the good news which was preached to you” (1 Peter 1:23, 25 RSV). The gospel of Jesus Christ that the Bible preaches is truly the word of life!

MORAL STANDARD

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). In a world full of choices, it is difficult to decide which option is the best. The negative consequences that come from making the wrong choices may leave behind painful scars and memories. But God’s word directs our thoughts, values, and daily conduct. It illumines our soul so that we can see God’s will for us. With the wisdom that comes from God’s word, we are able to do things that benefit not only ourselves but also those around us.

The Bible is also a map that shows us the way to heaven. It directs us to the Savior, measures the progress of our faith, and keeps us on the correct path so that we do not become lost or go astray.

God’s word is the ultimate standard of right and wrong. Everyone will be judged according to God’s word on the Day of Judgment. The Lord said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Therefore, it is important to walk faithfully in the teachings of the Bible and hold on firmly to the words of our Lord.

MIRROR FOR THE HEART

“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” (Hebrews 4:12).

God’s word helps us examine our faith and our conduct. It brings to light our hidden faults and sin; like a mirror, it reflects all of our shortcomings so we may change for the better.

The Bible is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). It equips us so that we can do the good works that God has created us for. Therefore, the word of God plays an essential role in the sanctification (setting apart for a holy purpose) of believers. For this reason Jesus prayed on behalf of the believers, saying “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).





FOOD FOR THE SOUL

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Neither material possessions, luxury, fame, power, nor education can satisfy the hunger of the soul. Many seek gratification in alcohol, drugs, sex, or even the occult, only to find more emptiness and hurt.

God has given us this invitation, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live...” (Isaiah 55:1–3).

Only God Himself can fill our spiritual hunger and quench our spiritual thirst. We ought to turn from all evil and seek the Lord by listening to His word. The joy of knowing the Lord and receiving salvation is something that money cannot buy, but can only be found in God’s words.

WEAPON AGAINST EVIL

Darkness takes over when there is no light. Likewise, evil prevails when we ignore the word of God. The word of God equips us against the forces of evil because it is the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). With it, we can be victorious over the temptations of Satan, just as the Lord Jesus Himself used the Scriptures to defeat the tempter.

“You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me” (Psalm 119:98).

Although the evil one is always finding ways to trick us, the word of God gives us the wisdom to do what is right and not fall into sin. A higher education does not make a person wiser. Satan triumphs when people reject the authority of the Bible. Crime, violence, fraud, and discrimination abound all the more in technologically advanced societies. Isn't it time for us to return to the values of the Bible and live by its truth?



RECEIVING GOD’S WORD

When the gospel reached the city of Berea during the time of the apostles, the Bereans “received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). It is with such diligence that we ought to receive and learn the word of God.

All the blessings of God’s word start with our listening to it and reading the Bible. It is more important to read the Bible than to read about the Bible. Open the Bible and start a life of daily Bible reading. Attend services and Bible studies, where believers share God’s word with one another. With a commitment to learn God’s word, we will truly benefit from it.



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

The Bible is a marvelous book: while its language is so simple that even a child can read it, its message is so profound that even a scholar may not understand it. We must not count on our own knowledge, but must humbly confess our ignorance and ask for guidance, for God has "hidden these things from the wise and prudent and [has] revealed them to babes" (Matthew 11:25).

Because the Bible is a work of divine inspiration, and "no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20), we need God's help to understand the meaning of God's word. "No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). God's Spirit, also called the Holy Spirit, is the Spirit of truth and revelation who can guide us into all truths (John 16:13). So praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit and His guidance is important in understanding what we read.



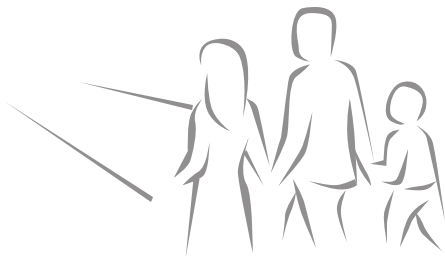
STORING GOD'S WORD IN HEART

The Lord told His people, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Unlike reading or studying a piece of literature, we need to take the words of the Bible to heart and think about how they apply to us.

A psalmist made this prayer, "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). God's words are precious and should be ever present so that in our times of loneliness, frustration, or sorrow, the words that are in our hearts will give us comfort and strength; in our confusion and doubt, they will shed light on our paths to lead us.





TRUSTING AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22–25).

When we put the Bible's teachings into practice, God's words come to life and the blessings and joy that we will reap are too great to express in words.

The teachings of the Bible must be combined with faith. This faith is not only agreement in thought, but it must be accompanied by action. There will be times when it seems difficult to carry out God's word, such as forgiving someone, helping others, or enduring hardships. However, since God's word is powerful and effective, and His promises are sure, we simply need to trust that the Lord will bless us according to His promise if we keep His word.

WELCOME THE BIBLE INTO YOUR LIFE

Much more could be written and said about the Bible. However, there is nothing better than for you to just pick up a copy, spend time every day reading it, ponder its meaning, and put its words into action. God's word is for everyone. Open this letter from God, read it over and over, keep it close to you, and do what it says. Soon you will begin to experience God's love and power in your life. The treasures found in the Bible will last you a lifetime, and above all, the salvation of Jesus Christ that the Bible preaches is a gift that you will cherish for eternity.

