

8. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to understand and apply God's Word.
9. As we read the Bible, we find out what God wants us to do. When we find out what God wants us to do, and are willing to do it, we are building our lives on a strong foundation that will never crumble.
10. The fruit of the Spirit begins and continues to grow in the life of the believer.

#### **PAGE 11**

1. Proud (of his knowledge), critical (of less mature Christians), frustrated (by inability to live up to God's standards), etc.
2. Mistaking his own thoughts and emotions for the leading of the Spirit, easily confused or deceived by unbiblical teaching, difficulty in trusting God (unaware of His promises).  
etc.

#### **PAGE 12**

3. Tom's "fire" consists of only a small pile of twigs (an understanding of how to receive Christ and how to be filled with the Spirit). When Tom sins, he may try to relight his charred pile of twigs (with the match of confession), but his fire will soon go out from the lack of fuel. Unless he gets consistent teaching from the Word of God (from Christian friends, a good

## **CONTENTS**

Beginning Your New Life In God's Word.....2

1. The Trustworthiness of the Bible...3

2. The Bible and Christian Growth....8

3. Action Point.....14

## BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE IN GOD'S WORD

*"Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets [in visions, dreams, and even face to face], telling them little by little about His plans. But now in these days He has spoken to us through His Son to whom He has given everything, and through whom He made the world and everything there is. "*

*Hebrews 1:1-2 LB*

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.'11*

(Jesus to His disciples Mark 13:31)

Throughout history God has desired to communicate with the people of His creation. Before Jesus came, God spoke to and through the committed people of the Old

Testament who recorded His Word. God then sent His Word to earth personally, in the form of Jesus Christ (John 1:14). While Jesus was on earth, as well as after His death and resurrection, God again directed committed men to record the words and deeds of the Son of God. The results of their faithfulness and availability, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is the New Testament. The entire record of God's communication to us, the Bible, is given to us by the God who desires our friendship and worship.

Much of the adventure of the Christian life comes from discovering through the Bible more of what God is like and what His plans are for us.

## ANSWERS

### PAGE 7

The book would undoubtedly be a mess, with little harmony or agreement among the.. conflicting viewpoints and opinions.

### PAGE 9

"It is written."

3. The Old Testament Scriptures.

4. Jesus' use of this phrase as His authority over Satan implies that God's recorded Word was His authority for life.

. If God's Son, who enjoyed perfect . fellowship with the Father, viewed Scripture in this light, it makes sense that we should give it equal importance. .

God's Word is the tool He uses in our lives to help keep us from sinning by clearly confronting us with God's ways and will.

### PAGE 10

7. The teaching of the Bible shows us the way in which God wishes us to walk. When we turn away from that path, the Scriptures offer reproof – they show us what we are doing wrong. God then uses the Word for correction – showing us how to please Him once again. The ongoing role of Scripture is to train us in righteousness, showing us the way we should live

In this booklet, we have considered the importance of letting God talk to us. As we continue to investigate how to build a meaningful relationship with the Lord, we need to understand how we can talk to God; in other words, how to pray. The final booklet in this series, "Beginning Your New Life in Prayer," explains what prayer is, why we pray and how to pray.

### III. ACTION POINT

Read John 15:10-27 this week and apply the steps that you used in this booklet. Consider buying a journal to record your study of the Bible each day. Your journal will become a permanent record of the things God is showing you.

Suggestions for further growth : Read the *Transferable Concept* booklet #4, "How to Walk in the Spirit," by Bill Bright in order to grasp a clearer picture of the relationship between knowing and applying God's Word and the Spirit-filled life. This booklet is available at local Christian bookstores, or you may use the attached postcard to send for an order form.

God has been extremely honest in His Book as He shares His most intimate thoughts. This honesty is essential if we are to know Him personally, because the honest knowing of another is the foundation for growth in a relationship. The bible has been called "God's love letter", and it is written for you. This booklet will help to explain how to understand and enjoy it.

William Lyon Phelps of Yale University one of the great scholars of history, once said, "I believe knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible." In the pages that follow, we will evaluate why the Bible is the most important book a person can read.

## THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE BIBLE

### The Bible's Uniqueness

Suppose you asked 40 different authors from different cultures and ages and varying walks of life to write one book of 40 chapters on one controversial subject. Let's assume that those authors could not meet together to plan what they would write or say.

1. Would you expect the writers opinions to agree?

---

---

Compare that imaginary situation to the reality of the Bible. The Bible was written over a period of 60 generations by 40 different writers from three different continents. They were from extremely diverse socio-economic backgrounds and cultures . These individuals, while in many countries and in varying circumstances, wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects in three different languages. Yet the Bible is a unit, a perfect whole, with one message from beginning to end.

**Archaeology's Supporting Evidence**

The accuracy of the scriptural record has repeatedly been upheld by outstanding leaders in archaeology . Renowned Jewish archaeologist, Nelson Glueck, wrote , "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted (proved false) a biblical reference."2

William F. Albright, a well-known American archaeologist, states : "Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details (of the Bible). and has brought increased recognition to the Bible as a sourceof history."3

The answers to this question and those on following pages begin on page xx.

VERSES	MEANING	APPLICATION

theoretical realm and into the personal realm of your life. You will find that following this practice makes the Bible come alive in your experience.

### EXAMPLE

Read I Peter 5:6-10. Going through the five steps with this passage, you might underline verse 7 and write in the margin of your Bible, "This is a great promise!" Then you would write down the following on a separate sheet of paper:

VERSE	MEANING	APPLICATION
Peter 5:7 "Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you."	God cares so much for me that he wants me to give Him my problems.	I need to cast my personal problems on the Lord, my fear of failure, my relationship with my boss, etc.

Now read John 15:10-12, using the five steps summarized below, and let God speak to you. A chart is provided on the next page for your convenience.

1. Ask God to speak to you through this passage.
2. Underline verses you want to remember and write comments in the margin of your Bible.
3. Write out any particularly interesting verse or passage.
4. Summarize the meaning of the passage.
5. Apply the passage to your life.

### Fulfilled Prophecies

The Bible makes incredible predictions which have come true in intricate detail. More than 300 predictions concerning the coming Messiah are stated in the Old Testament books. Though they were recorded thousands of years before the coming of Christ, He fulfilled them all.

To realize how amazing that fact is, imagine a person fulfilling only 48 of those 300. In examining that possibility in his well-documented book, *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner concludes, "We find the chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10<sup>15</sup>"s (The mathematical symbol 10<sup>15</sup> means 1 with 15 zeroes following it – just as 10<sup>2</sup> means a 1 with two zeros following it.)

Stoner points out how staggering this probability is when he considers the chance of only eight of the 300 prophecies being fulfilled. The probability in that case is 10<sup>17</sup>. Suppose, he writes, that "we take 10<sup>17</sup> silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of that state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mess thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote in their own wisdom."<sup>6</sup>

### Jesus' Attitude

In Matthew 4:4,7, 10, what phrase does Jesus use to counter the temptation of Satan?

---

---

To what does "it is written" refer?

---

- 4 What does this phrase tell you about the attitude of Jesus toward the Scriptures?

---

5. Since Jesus acknowledged God's Word (as revealed in the Scriptures) as His authority, what should be the authority for what is right for our lives?

---

---

### God's Life-changing Word

6. According to Psalm 119:9,11, why is it important to read God's Word?

---

---

*First*, understand that reading the Bible is not like reading any other book. The Bible is God's inspired Word to man. In this book, God has something to say to you. Therefore, approach the Bible with a spirit of humility. Be sure you have confessed all known sin to God; trust the Holy Spirit to teach you the meaning of His Word. Read with the attitude, "Lord, this is Your personal letter of love and instruction to me. Help me to understand and obey Your counsel and commands."

*Second*, begin the practice of using a pen or pencil when reading the Bible. Underline meaningful verses. Write your questions and reactions in the margins of your Bible. (The paper of the Bible is not holy; the message is!)

*Third*, when you come to a passage that is especially meaningful, write out on a sheet of paper the verses you wish to study. Copying the verses will help you concentrate. Many times, as you write out the verse or passage, you will see a deeper meaning than you saw at first glance.

*Fourth*, summarize in writing what you think the passage means. This helps to clarify your thinking and to answer the question, "What is God really saying?"

*Fifth*, write down your application of the passage to your life. An application is a practical way of let-

but was not told how to walk in the Spirit by faith. She was sent to a Christian high school and college where she learned more about the Bible. She consistently read the Word and even memorized large portions of Scripture, though she often did not understand what she was learning. When she was 22, a friend shared with her how she could be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit by faith. The friend also explained how she could share her faith in Christ using a Four Spiritual Laws booklet.

4. If Lynn doesn't get any more biblical input from her friend, what will happen to her?

---

---

---

5. Summarize the relationship between God's Word and being filled with the Spirit.

---

---

---

### Listening to God

We have seen several reasons for considering the Bible the most important book one could read. Many people, however, do not know how to listen to what God is saying to them in the Bible. Because a meaningful relationship with the Lord is dependent upon hearing and understanding what He is sharing with us, we are including some hints to help you as you begin your study of

Dr. C.I. Scofield, a renowned Bible scholar, has said:

"I gave much of my earlier life to the study of

Homer and Shakespeare, and while my understanding

undoubtedly profited by that study, and I found keen

intellectual delight in it, these books held no rebuke for

my sins, nor any power to lift me above them, but,

when I came to the Bible and received Him, concern-

ing whom, after all, the whole Book is written, I entered

into peace, joy and power. The Bible led me to Jesus.

and Jesus transformed my life."

7. What functions of Scripture does II Timothy 3:16,17 describe? How would you define these terms?

---

---

8. According to John 14:26, what is the Holy Spirit's role in relation to Scripture?

---

---

9. According to Matthew 7:24-27, why is it important to read and apply the Bible to our own lives?

---

10. What personal benefits occur from applying biblical teaching, according to Psalm 1:3 and Galatians 5:22,23?

---

---

## II. THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN GROWTH

### The Filling of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God

1. What might be some characteristics of the person who spends time studying the Bible but does not walk in the power of the Holy Spirit?

---

---

2. What might be some characteristics of the person who says he understands the filling of the Holy Spirit but does not have any knowledge of the Bible?

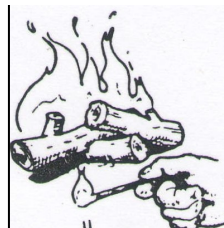
---

---

FIRE = Growing Faith (a constant Christian walk)

WOOD = Bible (knowledge of God's principles)

MATCH = Spiritual Breathing (being filled with the Spirit by faith)



This illustration shows that both the Holy Spirit and the Word are necessary for a person to continue to grow as a Christian. A pile of wood (knowledge of the Bible) will not burn unless it is lit (we are filled with the Spirit). Similarly, a lighted match (understanding how to be filled) will not result in a large fire (growing faith) unless there is a supply of fuel (knowledge of the Bible). Let's see how this illustration applies to two different individuals.

**Tom** never knew his father. His mother had to work to feed Tom and his brother and sisters. Since she worked on Sunday, Tom never went to church. He was raised on the street. He became a drug addict at 14, stole his first car at 15 and killed a man at 16. When Tom was 17, someone shared the Four Spiritual Laws with him. God's Spirit touched him, and he received Christ. The next day the same person explained to him how to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit. After that, Tom never saw his Christian friend again.

3. If Tom doesn't get further biblical input, what do you think will happen to him? (Describe him in terms of the fire illustration on the other page.)

---

---

---

**Lynn** was raised in an excellent Christian home. She was given loving, patient instruction from