

Day 15: The Bible- Part 1: Authority and Translations

Today, we are starting a series—within our series—focusing on the Word of God. The Bible you hold in your hands is truly an amazing book. But a new believer in Christ might say, “Pastor, I don’t even know where to begin.” The purpose of this devotional is to help you get started reading God’s Word.

As Christians, the Bible is our final authority and it is God’s way of telling us who He is, and what He desires of us. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Paul tells us that, “All Scripture is God breathed and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be equipped for every good work.” One of my favorite pastors explains it like this, “It is profitable for doctrine so it tells us what we should do. It is profitable for reproof...so it tells us what we shouldn’t do. It is profitable for correction, which means it tells us what we should do when we have done something we shouldn’t do. And it is profitable for instruction in righteousness which means it tells us how to do it!”

What does it mean by God “breathed”? Wasn’t it written by men? Yes, it was written from the pen of men who were inspired by the Spirit of God. Have you ever been inspired by somebody you love to write a poem? Inspired to paint a beautiful sunset? Some are inspired to write songs. In other words, your heart is full and you need to let it out--express yourself. Well, the way this works is that these

writers (40 of them from peasants, to tax collectors, to kings) were so filled with the Spirit of God that they maintained *who they were, and yet in the autograph every Word written was from the heart of God*. So, do you want to hear from God? Read His Word. If you want to hear Him speak audibly? Read it out loud. What we are going to be doing over the next few days is a brief survey of the different books of the Bible. The Bible is very unique. It contains books of law, history, poetry, prophecy, gospels, etc. There is no other book quite like it.

“But which Bible do I buy? Pastor, there are so many translations. Which should I study?” Well, when making your choice please understand the difference between translations. Some versions attempt to translate from original languages word for word (ESV, KJV, NKJV) while others work to convey the idea (NIV, NLT, CEB). Pray before choosing one, and when in doubt ask your pastor, or Christian brother or sister that knows the Word, and maybe, they can recommend a translation to you.

Over the next 8 days, we are going to look at how the Word of God is divided. For example, on Day 16 we will begin our study with the books of law, and Day 17 we will study the books of history, etc. We will have sample studies with each genre of Scripture that I pray will equip you to approach Scripture with confidence that God will speak to you.

