

Bible Basics

⇒ Purpose:

- The purpose of the Cable Bible Study is to guide the listener into a richer knowledge of the word of God.
- The studies presented on the Cable Bible Study are not considered infallible or exhaustive by any means.
- However, the studies should acquaint the listener with some of the basic Bible doctrines which are needed for Christian growth.

⇒ Translation:

- At this time let me briefly discuss a little bit about translations and perhaps at a later time have a more in depth discussion.
 - The two main languages that the Bible was originally written in were Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament).
 - Throughout history God chose to preserve His word by means of several different languages finally culmination in the English King James Version.
 - It has been the standard translation for almost 400 years.
 - First published in 1611 A.D., it is also know as the:
 - A. KJV (King James Version)
 - B. KJB (King James Bible)
 - C. AV (Authorized Version)
- During the years there have been other English translations of the Bible.
 - To date, there are over one hundred different English versions of the Bible all claiming to be “the closest to the original,” or “the most reliable.”
- You may ask: Which one is the best?
 - The best translation is the Authorized King James Version.
- Not only is the King James Version the best, it is preeminently the English Bible translation on which God has place the stamp of His approval.
 - A result of the Protestant Reformation, the Authorized Version has produced more revivals than all of the new versions combined!
 - It remains one of the world’s best sellers, and (unlike the modern versions) still has no financial copyright.
 - Also it was translated at a time when the English vocabulary was at its peak.
- Surviving numerous attacks from liberal and conservative scholars alike, the KJV still exhibits an infallible text, preserved without proven error in the language that God intended to preserve it in.
 - It is for these reasons (and textual manuscript evidence) that the King James Version is believed by this Bible Teacher to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible, preserved words of God.
 - And is used on the Cable Bible Study.
 - **As a Note: The New King James version (NKJV) isn’t a true revision of the old one and should be avoided.**

⇒ Interpretation:

- People often say: “There are so many interpretations of the Bible; how can you know which one is right?”
 - Or, they claim that: “Everybody has their own interpretation.”

- First of all, the Bible says in (2 Pet. 1:20), **“that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”**
 - No individual can interpret anything.
 - What people believe does not have any effect on what the Bible actually says.
 - Jesus said **“the scripture cannot be broken”** in (John 10:35).
 - Regardless of what scholarship, education, or religion affirms –
 - **The Bible says what it means, and means what it says!**
- Jesus warned us about false teachers: **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”** (Mt. 7:15)
- The Bible says there are **“false teachers”** who **“by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”**
 - They may use the Bible to teach **their system**, but in actuality according to (2 Cor. 2:17) they **“corrupt the word of God”**.
- The **interpreter** of the Bible is the author of the Bible – the Holy Spirit Himself!
- ⇒ **Let me give you some verses to show you that is the Holy Spirit who is the believer Bible Teachers.**
 - Gen. 40:8 – **“...Do not interpretations belong to God?...”**
 - John 16:13 – **“...Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...”**
 - John 14:26 – **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things,...”**
 - I Cor. 2:13 – **“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”**
 - I John 2:27 – **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things,...”**
- ⇒ Even though pastors are commanded to **“teach”** in the scripture (I Tim. 3:2), it is the Holy Spirit that actually imparts the truth.
 - A man can only teach in the sense of **guiding**.
 - An example of this found in Acts 8:30-31 where Philip, the evangelist is dealing with Ethiopian eunuch about his soul.
 - **Let's turn there.**
 - Biblical teaching presents **not** what the Bible is **presumed** to teach, but what it actually says!
 - This is done by adopting the Bible as the **ABSOLUTE** and **FINAL** truth in all matters.
 - It is vital that you dismiss any preconceived ideas you may have about what the Bible teaches, and just let it speak for itself.

Guidelines For Studying The Scripture

⇒ How To Study

- Since one of the greatest commandments to the Christian is to “**study**” the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15) he should make an effort to get the most out of it.
- ⇒ A. Always notice the **CONTEXT** of the verse.
 - The context is the background of the passage.
 - Within the context are the verses that immediately precede and follow a verse.
 - Most false teachings are based upon verses taken out of their context.
 - You should never listen to a man just because he quotes a few verses out of the Bible.
 - Beware of any preacher who does not acknowledge the context of a verse of scripture in his sermon.
- ⇒ B. Never **ADD** or **SUBTRACT** from a verse.
 - (Proverbs 30:6) – “**Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**”
- ⇒ C. Always take the **PLAIN, LITERAL, MEANING** of a verse, unless it is absolute impossible to do so.
 - Remember this – “When a plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.”
 - (Proverbs 8:9) says concerning the words of God – “**They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.**”
- ⇒ D. Ask two questions while reading:
 - 1. **WHO** is speaking?
 - 2. **TO WHOM** is the verse being spoken to?
 - Failing to answer these two questions can result in destructive Bible study, and yield to heresy.
- ⇒ E. Never base a doctrine (teaching) on an **obscure verse**.
 - (1 Thess. 5:21) instructs us to “**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**”
- ⇒ F. Never decipher a complete statement in light of an incomplete statement.
 - The Apostle Paul told the elders at Ephesus in (Acts 20:27) – “**For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**”
 - We are told in (Luke 24:27) after Christ’s resurrection on the road to Emmaus that Jesus, “**And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**”
- ⇒ **APPLICATION:** All verses have three applications.
 - A. **HISTORICAL** –
 - The verse has a place in a specific time frame in history.
 - The Bible then, is a record of **history** detailing what God wanted to pass on to future generations.
 - B. **DOCTRINAL** –
 - Every verse in the Bible is aimed at a **specific** group of people in order to teach truth or truths that are precisely for **them**.
 - Improper placement of verses **doctrinally** lead to heresy and false teachings.

- (2 Tim. 3:16) – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness:”

⇒ **METHODS:**

- **A. Study by CONTRAST**
 - Take notice of the things that are similar and different.
 - Things different are not the same!
 - Always keep **THAT** in mind as you read the word of God.
 - The **whole Bible was written FOR us, but all of the Bible is not written TO us.**
 - Remember also, the Bible never contains a contradiction.
 - So, do not dismiss a verse simply because you cannot understand it.
- Remember as Jesus said in (John 5:39) to “**Search the scriptures;...**”
 - When studying the scriptures remember to – **KEEP A HUMBLE HEART, AND A BELIEVING MIND!**
- **B. Study by ASSOCIATION**
 - Notice phrases, words, and occasions that go together.
 - Compare verses in order to get the whole picture, but do not forget the **context!**
 - (1 Cor. 2:13) – “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**”
- **C. Study by REPETITION**
 - Learning, sometimes takes going over the same thing over, and over, to get it.
 - The Apostle Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 3:15, “**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,....**”
- **D. Study by MEMORIZATION**
 - Part of repetition is memorization.
 - Sometimes the only key to actually learning something is to memorize it.
 - (Psalm 119:11) – “**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**”

The Bible

⇒ **DEFINED:**

- The Word Bible comes from the Greek word (Biblos) meaning “Book”.
- It is a holy book written by a Holy God.
- In short, the Bible is God’s communication (or revelation) to man.

⇒ **ITS CONTENTS:**

- The Bible contains precisely the things that God wants man to know, in exactly the form in which He wants us to know them.
- It reveals God’s plan and purpose for man.

⇒ **ITS NAMES:**

- A. “scriptures” (John 10:35)
- B. “the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2)
- C. “the word of God” (Hebrews 4:12)
- D. “the writings” (John 5:47)

⇒ **ITS COMPOSITION:**

- The Bible is a library of 66 books, written over a period of approximately 1500 years and is divided into two main sections.
- A. The Old Testament containing 39 books.
 - Another word for “testament” is “covenant.”
 - A “covenant” is an agreement or promise between God and man.
 - Basically, the OT is the covenant between God and the nation of Israel (the Jews).
- B. The New Testament contains 27 books.
 - Essentially, the NT is the covenant between God and all mankind through Jesus Christ.
- The OT (with exception of a few portions in Aramaic) was written in Hebrew, and the NT was written in Greek.
 - Hebrew was (and still is) the language of the Jewish people.
 - Greek was the dominant language of NT times.
 - God later preserved His word in the English language (the principle language of the last 500 years) through the King James Version.

⇒ **ITS IMPORTANCE:**

- The Bible is the most important Book ever written.
 - **It is the source book for all knowledge of God.**
 - Nothing needs to be added, or taken away from the Bible.
 - Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee said: “If God spoke out of heaven right now, He would just repeat himself because He has said all that He wants to say to this generation.”

⇒ **ITS POSITION:**

- For the believer, the Bible holds a position of highest regard and honor
 - Job said in Job 23:12 – “...I **have esteemed the words of his (God’s) mouth more than my necessary food.**”
 - Jesus when he was tempted of the devil said in Mt. 4:4 – “...**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**”

- In Jesus' pray to His Father in John 17, He prayed vs. 17 regarding the believer, **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."**
 - Sanctify means "set apart."
 - The Holy Bible is the **ABSOLUTE** and **FINAL AUTHORITY** in all matters of faith (beliefs) and practice (living).
 - As the definitive standard of all truth, the Bible holds an exalted position even above the name of God Himself!
 - **Psalm 138:2 – "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."**
- ⇒ **ITS AUTHORSHIP:**
- The Bible is unique in that it has "dual authorship".
 - It was written by both human and Divine instrumentality.
 - Not only was the Bible written by 36 to 40 different authors, but in the Bible we read, **"God said...the Lord hath said...thus saith the Lord"** over 2,500 times.
 - God speaks to us (if we let Him), not by visions and dreams (as in the OT) but by His word as it **"effectually works in us that believe"** (1 Thess. 2:13).
- ⇒ **ITS INSPIRATION:**
- The word "inspiration" comes from the word "inspire" which has it's roots in the words "spirit" and "breathe."
 - To inspire means: **"to infuse life by breathing on or into."**
 - The Bible is not the result of man's godly ideas, but God Himself **INBREATHING** men to record His thoughts.
 - **Psalm 33:6 – "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth."**
 - **Gen. 2:7 – "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."**
 - **2 Peter 1:21 – "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**
 - **2 Timothy 3:16 – "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"**
- ⇒ **ITS INERRANCY:**
- The word "inerrancy" is derived from the word "inerrant" which simply means "without error."
 - There are absolutely **NO** errors or contradictions in the Holy Bible.
 - **Prov. 30:5 – "Every word of God is pure:..."**
 - **Num. 23:19 – "God is not a man, that he should lie;..."**
 - **Psalm 33:4 –"For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth."**
 - **Psalm 119:160 –"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."**

⇒ **ITS PRESERVATION:**

○ Perhaps the most demonstrable, and objective proof in favor for the validity of the Bible is that of its preservation.

- The preservation of the Bible exhibits:

⇒ **A. Survival through TIME:**

○ The Bible (unlike any other book) was written over a period of sixteen hundred years, and sixty generations.

- No other book in history has these characteristics.
- It is by far, the most ancient of all books.
- Originally it was written on material that perished quickly with time such as papyrus, wax tablets, parchments, and vellum.
- For centuries before the invention of the printing press, the Bible had to be hand copied.
- These things, however, did not effect the style, existence or correctness of the Bible.
- God promised to **PRESERVE** His word, and He did!

▪ **Psalm 12:6-7 – “(6) The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (7) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”**

⇒ **B. Survival through PERSECUTION:**

○ The fact that the Bible has been viciously attacked proves it is more than just another “religious book.”

- Throughout the centuries many have tried to burn it, ban it, and outlaw it.
- Did you know it is even illegal to own a Bible in some foreign countries?
- Although we do not hear of “Bible burnings” today, efforts are being made to **OUTLAW** it in the schools, workplace, and eventually, the homes.

○ Even after the onslaught of persecution against the Bible, it still has more available manuscript evidence of antiquity than any ten pieces of classical literature (such as Plato and Aristotle) combined!

- There are more copies of the Bible in the print than any other book on earth.
- In other words there is more literal, physical, visible authority for the words of the Holy Bible than for any other book (ancient or modern; religious or secular)!
- It has survived much persecution, and remains **indestructible**.

▪ **Mt. 24:35 – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”**

⇒ **IT UNIQUENESS:**

○ The unique design of the Bible is one of the best proofs for its divine inspiration.

- No other book in the world contains these exceptional, supernatural distinctions:

⇒ **A. Unique in TRANSFORMING LIVES:**

○ The fact that the lives of millions of people have been changed from the inside out by reading the word of God, separates it from other so called “religious writings.”

- There is no way to explain how a persons language (like cursing), character, hobbies, musical taste, friendships, desires, motives, and thoughts can be completely transformed unless the Bible has truly been “**given by inspiration of God.**” (2 Tim. 3:16).

- James 1:21 – “...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- 2 Cor. 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

⇒ **B. Unique in HISTORY:**

- Yet another justified defense in favor of the Divine origin of the Bible is its historical influence.
 - To this day, after nineteen centuries of extensive archaeological excavating, no one has been able to prove one historical error in either Testament.
 - No other book has been so intensely studied and written about.
 - Neither has any other book documented HISTORY from the beginning of time (as found in Genesis) to the end (as found in Revelation), as the Bible.

⇒ **NOTABLE SAYS ABOUT THE BIBLE**

- **George Washington:** “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”
- **Andrew Jackson:** “That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests.”
- **Sir Isaac Newton:** “There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profaner history.”
- **Immanuel Kant:** “The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity.”
- **Robert E. Lee:** “There are things in the old Book which I may not be able to explain, but I fully accept it as the infallible Word of God, and receive its teachings as inspired by the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Isaiah 40:8:** - “**The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**”

⇒ **C. Unique in SCIENCE:**

- We have seen that the scriptures record history in an accurate and precise manner.
 - Did you know that the Bible is also a **scientific textbook** containing advanced scientific information?
- In the following examples we will see that the word of God is far ahead of “modern science.”
 - 1. The Bible states the earth was **round** in 700 B.C. Do you know what the leading scientists said for fifteen centuries? They said it was flat! Whoever wrote the Bible knew what the earth looked like from outer space!
 - **Isaiah 40:21-22** – “**(21) Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? (22) It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:**”
 - 2. Did the scientist of 1400, 1500, and 1600 know the wind has circuits? Solomon (the wisest man ever) discussed it in 977 B.C., when he wrote Ecclesiastes. All aerologist and meteorologists know this now, but they are about 1900 years behind the in their research.

- **Ecc. 1:6 – “The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.”**
- 3. The “hydrologic cycle” (evaporation, condensation, rain) was revealed in scripture over 3,000 years ago!
 - **Ecc. 1:7 – “All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.”**
- Here, the Bible explains how the water from rivers comes from the oceans, then eventually empties back into them.
 - This is known **now** as the “hydrologic cycle”.
 - Water circulates constantly between the earth and the atmosphere from the oceans, rivers, soil, and vegetation by “evaporation.”
 - As the air rises it cools off condensing into clouds, and when the water droplets get larger they form rain clouds that return the water to the earth.
 - Some of the water goes into the soil to nourish the plant roots, some seeps deep into the ground water, and some into the rivers, and streams that empty back into the sea, and the cycle begins all over again.
 - 4. The word of God provides instruction as to the prevention of disease and the spreading of germs.
 - **Lev. 15:13 – “And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean.”**
- It was not until the late 1800’s (with the discoveries of scientists such as Pasteur and Koch), that physicians began washing their hands in running water in order to prevent the spreading of germs.
 - Whoever wrote the Bible **knew** all about the prevention and cure of disease.
 - Why do not other religious “scriptures” contain this phenomena?
 - Answer: They are not “**inspired**” by God the Creator.
 - 5. The Bible is also precise and exact in the science of astronomy:
 - **Job 25:5 – “Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea,…”**
- Any grammar school student knows that the moon does not shine, rather it reflects the light of the sun.
 - But, the scientists did not know this in 1400’s, 1500’s, 1600’s, or as late as the 1700’s.
 - The book of Job contained this scientific information over 3500 years ago when it was written around 1800 B.C.
 - Science has no edge on the Bible.
 - The old King James Bible was far ahead of the science of its day, and even now it remains to be seen what “new” scientific discoveries will confirm that the author of scripture is the author of the universe.
 - **Col. 1:16 – “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”**

- 6. The Bible is an authority in the science of “anthropology” which is the study of the origin of man.
 - **Gen. 2:7** – “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

⇒ **D. Unique in PROPHECY:**

- The Holy bible is the only “religious” book in print that is distinctly **PROPHETIC**.
 - When prophecies come to pass, they are called **fulfilled prophecies**.
 - Announcing futuristic events is the final test of genuine divine inspiration.
 - The Koran (Muslim), the Book of Mormon (Latter-day saints), and the Apocrypha (Roman Catholic) contain no **fulfilled prophecy**.
 - The Bible actually records events of history before they occur.
 - The scripture hazards countless prophecies, taking for granted they will come to pass.
 - Did you know one whole book of the Bible (the book of **Revelation**) is devoted entirely to the events of the **FUTURE**?
 - **1. The author of prophesy: God.**
 - **Isa. 46:9-10** – “(9) Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”
 - **Isa. 48:3** – “I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.”
 - **Isa. 42:9** – “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.”
 - **2. The purpose of prophecy: BELIEF**
 - **John 14:29** – (Jesus speaking) “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”
 - **John 13:19** – (Jesus speaking) “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.”
 - **3. The prophecies about Jesus Christ: EXTRAORDINARY**
 - There were around fifty specific prophecies about Jesus Christ before He was born.
 - Some deal with His birthplace (Micah 5:2) – “**But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**”
 - Some deal with His name (Isaiah 7:14) – “**Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**”
 - Some deal with His ministry – **See (Isaiah 61:1-2)**
 - Some deal with His death – **See (Psalm 22:1-8 & Isaiah 53:1-12)**
- Every prediction was fulfilled to the letter!
 - No other book even attempts this.
 - In other words...We know that the Bible is the word of God because of **MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS** and **PROBABILITY!**

- The chances (or odds) of just seventeen of these prophecies coming to pass is one in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion!
- That number is so enormous: that you could not count it in a lifetime!
- With prophecy, the Bible moves into the realm of absolute impossibility.
 - The Bible could not conceivably be a product of man's intellect, the odds are too great.
 - It **MUST** be (and **IS**) the inspired, infallible word of God!

⇒ **ITS SYMBOLS:**

- There are several symbols in the Bible that are used to illustrate the word of God. A few of these are:

- **A. SWORD**

- **Heb. 4:12** – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- The Bible is a two-edged sword.
 - It can save a man or destroy him.
 - A man's destiny depends on how he responds to the words of God.
 - In using this sword as an offensive weapon (**See Eph. 6:17**) keep in mind the most vital part: **the handle**.
 - Simply quoting a verse of scripture that fits the given situation is not always the proper way to **handle** this “sword.”
 - **Heb. 4:13** – “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
- The Bible is the only book in existence that anticipates the thoughts of those who read it.
 - The characteristic is one that God the Father Himself possesses.
 - **John 12:48** – “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
 - **Eze. 11:5** – “...for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.”
- **B. HAMMER**
 - **Jer. 23:29** – “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”
- The Bible is not only able to judge a person, it can **BREAK** a person who disobeys it.
 - **Prov. 13:13** – “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”
- **C. FIRE:**
 - **Jer. 20:9** – “...But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones,...”
- **D. SEED:**
 - **1 Pet. 1:23** – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

- **E. LIGHT:**
 - Psalm 119:130 – “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”
 - Psalm 119:105 – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
 - **F. MILK:**
 - I Pet. 2:2 – “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
 - **G. MEAT:**
 - Heb. 5:14 – “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
 - **H. WATER:**
 - Eph 5:26 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
 - All real knowledge and wisdom comes from the word of God.
 - The doctrines of the Bible are holy, the precepts of the Bible are binding, the histories of the Bible are true, and the decisions of the Bible are immutable.
 - Read the Bible to be wise.
 - Believe the Bible to be saved.
 - Practice the Bible to live holy.
 - The Bible is the pilgrim’s map and staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the believer’s charter.
 - You should allow the Bible (the word of God) to fill your memory, rule your heart, and guide your footsteps.
- ⇒ **ITS EFFECT:**
- Since the Bible is actually a **living** book, it can perform certain supernatural acts.
 - **A. It can give you the new birth.**
 - I Pet. 1:23 – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
 - **B. It can save your soul.**
 - James 1:21 – “...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
 - **C. It can help you grow.**
 - I Pet. 2:2 – “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
 - **D. It can build you up.**
 - Acts 20:32 – “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”
 - **E. It can cleanse you.**
 - Psalm 119:9 – “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”
 - Eph 5:26 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”

- **John 15:3 – Jesus said “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”**