

The Bible

Chapter 9

I assume that you are continuing to read this because you took the Dare to Believe in God and that the Bible is the Word of God. Good.

Background

The Bible is nothing more than an accumulation of many writings by different people as God gave them the words. That is why the Bible has many books in it. Each book is an accumulation of messages given to God's people. God gave them so that there would be no mistake as to what God meant and what God was and is doing. He gave these words to instill faith and judgment; He gave them to give His proof of Himself and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He gave the Bible for us to learn of Him and His Kingdom, past present and future. He gave the Bible so that His children might know Him and so that they can have faith in Him and be saved. Scriptures are writings that were given to man from our Father. If the message is not from God then they are not scriptures.

There are many Bibles, many versions and purposes. There are many translations at different times in history. But if you take all of these popular Bibles and compare them, the format (the style, font and layout it was written), the words and the semantics might be different, but they are all basically the same. God's meaning and intention and purpose are all the same, as well as His principals. You can have a different format, one has columns and the other is written like this is by paragraph. The order of words might be different: Like if I said, "He went to the store" and, the other guy says, "To the store he went". They both mean the same thing, but the order is different. And we can use many different words and they are the same meaning. Likewise, the semantics or word might be different, like some people call fuel for cars, petrol and another call it gas and still others do call it fuel. They all mean the same thing, liquid that runs your car.

The most famous old version is called The King James, because the King of England, King James wanted to read the Bible but he could not read Latin. It is full of thy(s) and thou(s). Frankly I find it hard to concentrate with I read that old stuff, but that does not mean that it is not God's Word. So for the most part Bibles may be different, but they say God's Word.

Hebrew and Latin have many definitions to the same word and so the translators, guided by the Holy Spirit, picked the best word for that style and for that time. And for those groups of people, it is understandable, and the Holy Spirit can explain to them with their understanding of English.

Bible

I will warn you that there are a few religions that have adulterated the Bible with their additions and subtractions of God's Word. The Jehovah Witness is one of them. Please stay away from them. If it is a big concern please contact me and I will go over it.

At this point, there are a couple trustworthy Bibles: The Berkeley Version (Modern Version), NIV (New International Version) and of course King James. Here in this manual, I will be for the most part use NIV (mainly because the Berkeley Version is out of print). If it is not the NIV, I will state the other version with it. See Appendix "C" for a list of trust worthy Bibles.

How to understand the Bible

Now you need to know about the Bible. Truthfully, the Bible is hard to understand. Why? Because people, the spirit world and the Kingdom of God are complicated. God wrote it to help us to understand how they all work together or why they do not. He wrote it to show us Himself—and He is very complicated. In the spirit world there are God's angles and there are the devil's demons. They are at war, and that is complicated.

So how did God write all of this in one book? Since I am writing, I can say that it is very hard to do that in such a small book as the Bible, but He did. The secret behind it is His Holy Spirit. The Bible is often called the Living Bible. Why, because when you read the same part over and over again, you learn something new. Why, because the Holy Spirit opens your eyes and mind to the living words of God. And He shows you how the same words apply to different things or circumstances.

God did not write the Bible to be read alone, but with Him. God wrote it in a way that it requires Him to explain it. He also did it on purpose this way so that the evil people will not understand it. For He does not want evil people in Heaven with Him and us. Then there would be no difference between living on earth or in Heaven. So only those people that have the Holy Spirit in and with them can understand and comprehend the Bible.

God wrote the Bible to help everyone that He has chosen to come to the same unity of faith (EPH 4:9). So God has written the Bible to help everyone's problems, and because everyone has different problems then He had to write and tell them what is best for them. This at times seems conflicting and confusing, but many people are opposite and so to one group God says one thing, but to the opposite He says another or opposite thing. God has shown that everything in life is gray and not black and white. Everything must be balanced—hence gray: the balance between black and white; so you must let Him explain what the Bible means and how it is applied.

See what Jesus says about this:

MT 13:10 "The disciples came to Him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

MT 13:11 "He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. [12] Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. [13] This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand."

MT 13:14 "In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

" `You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

MT 13:15 "For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them."

MT 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. [17] For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

So you cannot understand the Bible unless God reveals it to you. He must open your eyes to see the true meaning of the words that He wrote. He must open your ears so that you can hear the Holy Spirit speak to you about the words. Finally, He must open your heart to perceive the Bible and understand the words you are seeing and the what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you.

We will explain more about the Holy Spirit later after you learn how to read the Bible. You and everyone must and need to understand for yourselves by reading the Bible.

How to read the Bible

At this point we cannot go any further unless we use the Bible. The Bible, or the scriptures as many call it, is the foundation of our life with God.

Bible

First off, anything supported by Biblical scriptures must always be taken and used in context.

That means that the scriptures must be of the similar situation and concept as to what the author is writing about in the Bible. For without that, and if you believe blindly, then anyone can use the Bible to convince you that you should be their slave, thief or murderer.

So please read all scriptures for yourself. Read the all the scriptures before and after the scripture given prayerfully, fully expecting the Holy Spirit to explain it to you in your heart and mind.

NOTE: Most important, always pray for God's guidance and understanding of the scripture. The Bible was written by God and the Holy Spirit, so Bible can only be completely understood by the explanation of Holy Spirit.

1CO 2:10 "but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. [11] For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] **We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.** [13] This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom **but in words taught by the Spirit**, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. [14] **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.** [15] The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

1CO 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"

So to understand God and the Word of God you must have the Holy Spirit. Remember John 14, 15, and 16 where God promises to Teach you all thing of the Kingdom of God, remind you of all things that He has taught you and that the Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. It all happens from, through and because of the Holy Spirit.

There is evidence that the Bible is the same today as when it was written. There was an Archeological find in a place call the Dead Sea in the Middle East. There they found lots and lots of scrolls of scriptures. They compared them to the Bible and have determined that nothing has changed since the beginning of the New Testament. They are called the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was determined that they were written around in the year 100AD. They are copies of the original scriptures as the Apostles wrote them.

Bible

So what do you have to loose? So pray that God will send you the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes, ears and your heart to understand He Scriptures. Then read the Bible and see what God does.

So when you read the Bible, you need not read it like you do when you study for school. When you study for school, you try to memorize the material, you try your hardest to try to understand what it is you are reading. You try your hardest to learn it. In essence you are trying to teach yourself.

That is not so with the Bible. You must renew your mind by learning to do things God's way. He promises that the Holy Spirit will teach you all thing, especially off things of our Father and Jesus our Christ.

What do you do? Do you do nothing? Well yes you do a lot, you have faith in God and His word. You trust Him to fulfill His promise, and the main promise here is that He promises that the Holy Spirit will teach you all thing and will guide you into all truth. So you put your faith in God and the Holy Spirit to do this. You show your faith but just resting in Him and clearing your mind of all distractions, thoughts and worries. You just read the Bible like you would a story book and you let God do the rest. This is why I find most Bible studies do not work, because most Bible studies were not created by God but by man. Man cannot understand the mind of Christ only the Holy Spirit can. So only His direct teaching works. In most cases we use the Bible study because it is easier then to trust God to send us the invisible Holy Spirit, it is easier then fighting our conflicts and various desires that are contrary to God's and it is just easier because we are basically lazy.

MT 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

MT 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

MT 25:22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

MT 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

MT 25:24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

MT 25:26 "His master replied, **`You wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

MT 25:28 " `Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. [29] For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

MT 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

MT 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, `Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, [36] I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

HEB 6:7 "Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. [8] But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned."

HEB 6:9 "Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation. [10] God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. [11] We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. [12] **We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.**"

JAS 2:25 "In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without deeds (works, actions, not lazy) is dead.**"

REV 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, **but you are dead.** [2] Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your **deeds** complete in the sight of my God. [3] Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”

REV 3:4 “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. [5] **He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.** (This requires work) I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before My Father and His angels. [6] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

You must work for yourself; God is not pleased with lazy people.

So do not study the Word of God depending on yourself or others, but read it depending on God to move the Holy Spirit on you and that He will teach you.

Truths about God’s Word

So lets start with what Jesus says:

MT 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] **I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.** [19] Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. [20] For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

MT 24:32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. [33] Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. [34] I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. [35] **Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away.**”

LK 16:14 “The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. [15] He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but **God knows your hearts.** What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.”

LK 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the Kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. [17] **It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.**"

Here is just a little of what the Apostles say.

AC 17:24 "**The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.** [25] And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. [26] From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. [27] God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. [28] 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'

AC 17:29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill. [30] In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. [31] For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him (Jesus) from the dead."

How were the Scriptures Written

Here is a conversation between God and a prophet. Here is an example of how God created the Bible.

JER 1:1 "The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. [2] The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, [3] and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile."

JER 1:4 "**The Word of the LORD came to me, saying,**

JER 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.""

JER 1:6 "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

JER 1:7 "But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' **You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.** [8] Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD."

JER 1:9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "**Now, I have put My Words in your mouth.** [10] See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

JER 1:11 The Word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

JER 1:12 **The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled."**

JER 1:13 The Word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"

"I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

JER 1:14 "The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. [15] I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD."

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;
they will come against all her surrounding walls
and against all the towns of Judah."

JER 1:16 "I will pronounce My judgments on My people
because of their wickedness in forsaking Me,
in burning incense to other gods
and in worshiping what their hands have made."

JER 1:17 "Get yourself ready! **Stand up and say to them whatever I command you.** Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. [18] Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. [19] They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD."

JER 30:1 "This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: [2] "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: '**Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.** [3] The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring My people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,' says the LORD."

JER 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put My law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be My people."

2TI 3:10 "You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, [11] persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. [12] In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, [15] **and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**"

2PE 1:16 "We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. [17] For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." [18] We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain."

2PE 1:19 "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20] **Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**"

2PE 2:1 "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. [2] Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. [3] In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping."

God's Word

Lets see how God started all things.

GE 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2] Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

GE 1:3 "And God **said**, "Let there be light," and there was light. [4] God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. [5] God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day."

GE 1:6 "And God **said**, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." [7] So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. [8] God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day."

GE 1:9 "And God **said**, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. [10] God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good."

GE 1:11 "Then God **said**, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. [12] The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. [13] And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day."

GE 1:14 "And God **said**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, [15] and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. [16] God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. [17] God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, [18] to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. [19] And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day."

GE 1:20 "And God **said**, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." [21] So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[22] God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." [23] And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day."

GE 1:24 "And God **said**, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. [25] God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good."

GE 1:26 "Then God **said**, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

GE 1:27 "So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them."

GE 1:28 "God blessed them and **said** to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

GE 1:29 "Then God **said**, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. [30] And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so."

GE 1:31 "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day."

God did everything by His Word, "**God said**". By His Word everything was created. So the Word of God controls His power and His Holy Spirit controls all power.

Finally lets see what He says at the end of the Bible.

REV 22:18 "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. [19] And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

REV 22:20 "He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

REV 22:21 "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.
Amen."

Is it just a coincidence that it is at the end of the Bible or was this just for the last part of Revelations. My heart says it is for the whole Bible.

JN 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning.

JN 1:3 "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. [4] In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. [5] The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

JN 1:6 "There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. [7] He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. [8] He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. [9] The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world."

JN 1:10 "He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. [11] He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. [12] Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- [13] children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

JN 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The most important thing **to** God is "His Word". So if He cannot protect His Word, in this case His Word that is written down, then His is not God.

Conclusion

The Bible is the Word of God in a form for all to read and believe. If we do not have His Word to read or hear to know of what and who He is, how can we have faith in Him? How can we know what He wants and how to please Him to ensure our salvation?

God wants you to put the Bible to the test. Put Him to the test. See if He does not do what He promises in it. Because reading the Bible builds your faith, and it is by faith that you are saved and you live with God in this world.

For, Faith comes by hearing and hearing that comes by every word of God: Verbal and written.

RO 10:5 "Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." [6] But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: [9] That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [11] **As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."** [12] For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, [13] for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.""

RO 10:14 "How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [15] And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!""

RO 10:16 "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.** [18] But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:

"Their voice has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.""

Here you have to make another decision. You have to decide to believe the Bible is the Word of God, to trust it and to follow it or you have to decide that it is not and suffer the consequences.

If you do decide that the Bible is the Word of God, then you need to pray for understanding of it, you have to read it and you have to allow and depend on the Holy Spirit to teach you.

All scripture is written by God through the Holy Spirit to man to write for all men to see and read, but God dictated it and He will protect it always.

As you should know that it is by Grace you have been saved by your Faith are saved. (Eph 2:8) But if you do not have Faith you cannot be saved, but how did you get that faith? How can you have Faith in some one unless you know what they want or their will or their promises? How can you have Faith for your Salvation unless you know what the Salvation is? There is power in God's word, but there is little power in hearsay (that is when you get a message second of third hand, meaning that the message was told to some one and it was passed down and then passed down. As you know, every time a message is repeated and repeated, it is changed; so removing the power from the original message.) God wants every one of His children to have His power and authority, but that only comes directly from God and not anyone else. Even as you read this, I have given you Scriptures over and over again, why, because you can only receive power and authority as you read the scriptures yourself with the Holy Spirit. The sole purpose of my writings is for you to understand now much you need to read the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to teach and empower you, no one else can.

In the following chapters, I will try to show how the Bible is alive and every word is true from God. I will also show examples of how I have applied the Word of God and He honored my faith in Him and His Word.

Below are a couple of events that occurred as I grew in Faith in God. And my faith grew as I decided to believe and to trust Him to fulfill His promises and words.

Appendix A

Story of the My Bible

Right after I became a Christian, my Christian brother, as was his custom, gave me a bible, it was called “The Way” (it was the living Bible—a paraphrase—meaning that someone read another Bible and then wrote a new one in his own words).

I started to read it from the beginning, and I was determined to read it from front to back. I did not realize that it was the living word, which is to be read as the Lord guides.

So anyway I was really happy and excited about this. But as the days grew on, I got tired of the old testament from the book of Numbers, Deuteronomy and so it went. Each day, my Christian brother asked me if I read the New Testament yet, and I would tell him no, because I still had 1200 pages to read first. It would be a long time before I got there. Well as time went on each day, I got more and more depressed as I tried to go through this mud of the Old Testament.

However, after about 3 weeks, I lost my bible.

(Little background. I was in the Navy. We slept on cots with 100 men in one room. The cots were stacked up 4 high, like bunk beds. I did not have room in my locker to keep this large book, so I kept it on my pillow. I figured that no one would steal a Bible. So it should be safe. It was becoming my custom that after work and I got cleaned up, I would get in bed and read the Bible to sleep. What else was there to do on a 300-foot ship in the middle of the ocean, going around I circles?)

On this morning, I made my bed, and placed my bible on my pillow and went to work. I return to my cot at lunch, and I decided to read some more. Well when I got back to my bed my Bible was gone. I looked everywhere. And I asked everyone if they saw it. I could not find it. So I returned to by cot very sad. But when I got back to my cot I looked at the foot of my cot and I saw a small, green, pocket size bible. It was cute. I asked around to find out whose it was and every one said that it was not theirs nor do they know who it belonged to. So since my Bible disappeared and I needed one, I kept it and went back to work.

After work, I looked around some more for my regular bible and again nothing. So later, I went to bed depressed having lost my Bible. But I was reminded of my new Bible. So I picked it up and I read Matthew. As I read I could feel that my depression lifted. I was so filled with the Joy of the Lord that I wanted to burst out. Later that night as I read more, I just had to share this new revelation with my Christian brother. I went to his cot and I stared at him, waiting for him to stop reading his Bible. When he looked

Bible

up, he said, “You finally read the New Testament.” I said, “How do you know?” He said, “The Joy of the Lord is all over your face.”

Well from then on I was compelled to read that green Bible. I was so filled from that day on that I never wanted to stop reading. That is when the Lord started to could talk to me through the green bible and deal with me and create in me a new man.

6 months later, we were discussing Bibles at the Christian Service Men’s Center. And all of the brothers were saying that if you really wanted the Word of God that had meat to grow on, that you needed to read the King James Version. So after a long discussion, I decided to get one. The following day I went to the local Christian bookstore and got a King James Version.

As soon as I open that bible, that terrible depression came back. The longer I read that book the worse it got. I became alienated again like I was when I read only the Old Testament of “The Way” Bible.

A couple weeks later, I forgot to take my King James Bible with me. I saw one of the green bibles lying around and picked it up and started to read it again. It was like finding an old friend. The depression left me and the Joy of the Lord returned.

I asked God what happened and as one of the first answers I got from Him, He said, “What I have given you, let no man take away. I gave you that little green bible; it is from Me to you. You keep that little green bible and only that little green bible (meaning that version of the Bible, not that specific book, they wear out). And I want you to give that Version of the Bible to all those that I lead to you and to those that you are to help. I wrote that Version of the Bible for your generation, for it is in the language that you understand. You will not understand any other version.”

This is how I became attached to the Version of the Bible that was the little green Bible, which is the Berkeley Version Bible, or the Modern Version Bible.

I had many of those books. The Gideon Society published it. So they kept the Navy full of them and the King James Version. I would go to the base Chaplain and get cases of that little green Bible, and I would give them away to all of the Christian Service Men’s Center every where I went. I left them in Hong Kong, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Japan.

But I gave my last one away and I went to Gideon’s, and I found out that they no longer published that Bible anymore. They went to the NIS version. I looked and looked for that Bible, and to no avail.

As an alternate Bible, God has given the NIS to use. It is very close to the Berkeley version. But you must determine with God which Bible is best for you.

Appendix B

Dare to Believe the Bible: A Rain Story

Years ago while I was in the Navy, my ship we went to Korea for R and R (Rest and Relaxation). Shortly before this I was reading in the Bible:

JAS 5:13 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

JAS 5:17 “Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

While there, my Christian brother and I went shopping in town. As we shopped we started to talk to a couple of Korean girls. They were hungry for the Lord so we talked about the Kingdom of God until they closed the store.

We invited them to dinner at the military base. We talked for a few more hours which led to them praying and receiving the Lord. As it was getting late, they were going home, but as it would be, it started to rain. I mean really rain; it was raining so bad that you could barely see a few feet in front of you. It was raining cats and dogs.

I felt compassion for them and started to pray. And He reminded me of the verse in James above, on how Elijah stopped the rains.

So I prayed, “Lord this is not fair for these wonderful new sisters. If not for us taking them to dinner they would have gone straight home and not get wet or soaked in this case. There was no warning about the rain so they did not bring umbrellas. So please stop the rain long enough for them to get home.”

I got the small still voice that said, “Ok. Go ahead and stop the rain.”

I was shocked and said, “Me stop the rain, I am not God I cannot do that, would You please stop it?”

Again I got the reply, “I gave you the authority and power over all things, you stop the rain.”

Now I was scared and I said, “But what if I fail, what if I yell and nothing happens, I will be humiliated and a shamed.”

He said, “You know what to do. I gave you everything.”

Well it was getting late and I could hear them discussing what to do. They were worried that they might catch a cold if they walked home because it was pretty far.

So I determined that I was willing to be humiliated for the Lord if it did not work. I walked to the edge of the building, I looked up into the rain and as I pointed to the rain I said, “In the name of Jesus, rain stop.” Nothing happened. But the spirit inside said to do it again with authority.

So again, I looked up into the rain and as I pointed to the rain I said, “In the name of Jesus, rain stop.” I then saw that rain suddenly slow down to a sprinkle. But that was not good enough. So I looked up into the rain again and as I pointed to the rain I said, “In the name of Jesus, rain stop.” This time that did it. It totally stopped.

I looked over to my new sisters and said, “It has stopped raining, you better hurry home before it starts again.”

They asked, “What happened?”

I replied, “The Lord has stopped the rain until you get home. So you do not need to run but just head home and it will be dry until you get there.”

We all said our good byes and they went home praising the Lord for loving them so much by stopping the rain and keep them dry. My friend and I decided we better get to our hotel before it started raining again.

The rain started to pour down again as I entered the hotel behind my friend.

Appendix C

List of Trustworthy Bibles

The bibles that are most trustworthy you will find from the American Bible Society.

Here are a few trustworthy versions.

These are true translations

- Berkeley Version, or Modern Bible
- NIV: New International Version
- KJV: King James Version
- NKJV : New King James Version
- MKJV : Modern King James Version
- ASV : American Standard Version
- NASB : New American Standard Bible
- RSV : Revised Standard Version

These are called paraphrased, not true translations; they are good for young children

- Living Bible
- New Living Bible
- Good News for Modern Man