

MEMORY VERSE: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week’s lesson examines what role the Bible plays in a growing relationship with God.

1. Scripture is the voice of God. (Sun, Mon)

- The Bible is “God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; 1 Pet. 1:11).

It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man’s words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words and thoughts receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the Word of God. 7BC 945

- Scripture is the final authority for the Christian. As such, we:
 - Regard “all Scripture” as an inspired whole (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - Commit to “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - Recognize that Bible truth supersedes personal experience and our fallen, finite reason (2 Pet. 1:16, 19).
- This clear line of communication between God and man is one of Satan’s chief targets.
 - “As the covering cherub before he fell (Ezek. 28:14–17), Lucifer heard God’s words and knew their incredible power. He now hates this truth, so it’s clear why our minds grow numb and our hearts grow dull when we don’t choose to hear and bring God’s words into our daily lives.” Qtly, Sun, par 4

Satan employs every possible device to prevent [people] from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. GC 593 (Qtly, Sun, par 2)

2. The Bible is alive (Wed, Thu, Sab)

- The Bible describes itself as a “living and active” (Heb. 4:12; see also Is. 55:8-11).
 - “In a spiritual sense, the Bible is food for our souls.” Qdly, Wed, par 4
 - See also Jer. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:2, 3; Mt. 4:4; Jn. 6:53, 63

The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word... As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God’s word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another’s mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. DA 390

- Though it may appear foolish to the world, the truth of the Gospel revealed in Scripture is “the power of God” (Mk. 12:24; Rom. 1:6; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2:14).
- The Bible will work just as powerfully in our lives as we allow it.
 - “Our ability to receive instruction from God’s Word depends largely on what the state of our heart is like when we come to the Bible.” Qdly, Thu, par 1
 - See also Lk 8:15; 1 Thes. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:1-9
 - “If you have a desire to grow in your relationship with God, the best thing you can do is commit to spending quality time with Him daily, praying, reading His inspired Word, and surrendering your will to what it teaches.” Qdly, Sab, par 4

CONCLUSION

It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is—the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God’s word as anything less than this is to reject it. Ed 260 (Qdly Fri, par 4)