

Session Five - Scripture

The Word Of God

Let's remember

What has each lesson been about and which bible verse accompanies them?

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| 1. G | Mat 28:18-19 |
| 2. P | Mat 6:33 |
| 3. C | Rom 5:8 |
| 4. T | 1 Pet 5:7 |
| 5. W | 2 Tim 3:16 |

Let's talk

How do we know that God is three 'persons' in unity?

How do we know about God's grace, God's will and about prayer?

Introduction

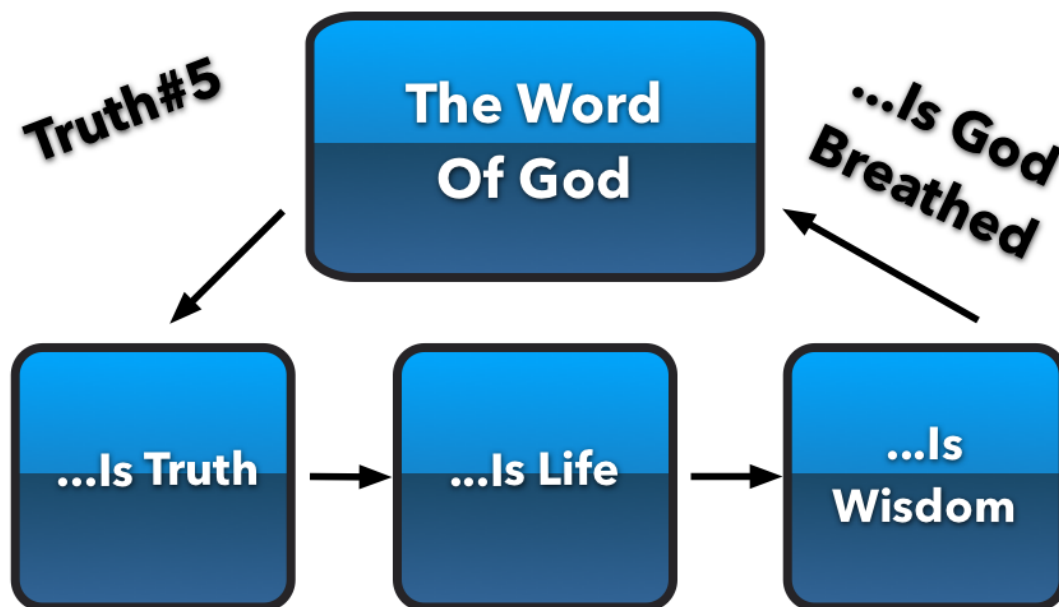
"To answer/speak before listening - that is folly and shame."

Proverbs 18:13

What is the wisdom of these verses?

If God has spoken to us, then we would be fools not to listen. This means that before we come to any conclusions about God and of worship, and of prayer, and of priorities, we must close our mouths, stop what we are doing, and listen to him. That is, if God has spoken. The bible says very clearly that he has!

Overview Of This Lesson



1) The Word Of God Is God Breathed

"All scripture is God-breathed..." 2 Timothy 3:16

This is what the bible claims. These scriptures include all of the Old Testament, which were well recognised in the first century AD, as well as the New Testament, which were written by the apostles in the same manner that the Old Testament was written (2 Peter 3:15-16). Men wrote with the wisdom that God gave them by his Spirit.

The word translated as *breath* can also be translated as *Spirit*. This is true in the Greek and the Hebrew languages. We could read that "all scripture is God-Spirited". It communicates to us how closely connected the word of God is to the Spirit of God: as closely connected as our words to our breath!

Try to speak without exhaling! Look at the following quotes to see the inseparable connection between the Spirit and the Word!

Genesis 1:1-31 – "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

Psalms 33:6 – "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."

Isaiah 34:16 "Look in the scroll of the LORD and read: None of these will be missing, not one will lack her mate. For it is his mouth that has given the order, and his Spirit will gather them together."

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."

John 3:34 "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives his Spirit without limit."

John 6:63 "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life."

2 Peter 1:20-21 "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that this applies to all of Scripture. The bible claims of itself that it is given to us through the breath of God - the Spirit of God.

Reflect on what an amazing statement this is. The Holy Spirit has given this book that we hold to us! God has spoken to us!

2) The Word Of God Is Truth

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching**..." 2
Timothy 3:16*

John 17:17 - "...your word is truth."

Proverbs 30:5-6 - "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

Titus 1:2 - in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.

Hebrews 6:18 - God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

Psalms 19:7-10 - The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

Deuteronomy 29:29 - The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law:

The Word of God is for knowing God and knowing him in truth – his word is truth.

3) The Word Of God Is Life

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting..." 2 Timothy 3:16

John 1:1-4 - 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. 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 all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 14:6 – Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 5:39 - You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Luke 24:25-27 - He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

John 6:66-69 - From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

4) The Word Of God Is Wisdom

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness.**" 2 Timothy 3:16*

Luke 8:21 - He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Psalms 1:1-2 - Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Psalms 119:9-16 - How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. ¹⁰I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹²Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. ¹³With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. ¹⁴I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ¹⁵I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Romans 15:4 - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

2 Peter 1:3-4 - His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

...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 servant of God ^P may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Conclusion

Deuteronomy 32:47 "They are not just idle words for you - they are your life!" They are not simply words to live by - just as Proverbs 18:13 is more than good advice - it points us to the greatest thing in life. The bible, the whole bible, is able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The bible, the whole bible, points us to The Word of God - The LORD Jesus Christ. All of scripture speaks of Him and points us to Him. We know that Jesus is LORD because the bible tells us so. We know that there is no other name under heaven through whom men can be saved but the name of Jesus because - the bible tells us so. We know that God is a personal God who invites us to come to him in prayer because - the bible tells us so. We know that we can be confident and assured of our salvation because - the bible tells us so. And we know that Jesus loves us - because the bible tells us so.

Picture It!

Know God

Know Life

Start Living

Describe It!

How would you compare the bible to any other book in the world? Eg, a car manual, a fairy tale, a self-help book...

Apply It!

Knowing what the bible is for is a start. Getting used to reading it is another thing altogether. What advice can you give yourself or someone else on how to get the most out of the bible?

"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." Isaiah 66:2b

For further thought

LUKE 8:4-15

JOHN 1:1-18

LUKE 11:28 – LOOK ALSO AT THE REASON FOR JESUS' WORDS HERE.

ACTS 6:1-7

EPHESIANS 6:17

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13

Listen To A Sermon

There are multiple choices of sermons for this topic and an internet search on preachers such as John Stott, Simon Manchester or Don Carson will return many sermons on the Word of God. Here is John Piper on the way effectiveness of Scripture.



Read Something Great



A relatively new book to the world of Theology is one that teaches how we should think about the Word of God and how to handle it properly. This chapter of *Digging Deeper* by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach opens the book with the understanding of what the bible is and how to approach it.

Some other books to look up and read on the subject include:

Chapman, John, *Making the Most of the Bible*, Matthias Media, 2012.

Roberts, Vaughan, *'God's Big Picture'* IVP, 2009

Thompson, Mark, *'A Clear and Present Word'*, IVP, 2006.

