

## Fundamental Facts About the Word of God

The Bible is the word of God! It is the most published book in existence. It is loved in life and cherished in death. Regardless of whether they read it or not, whether they believe it or not, most people have a Bible. For that matter, in our society (even though they may not be able to afford a Bible), all can have **access** to a Bible. But do people in general really appreciate the Bible? Do they realize its power? Do they understand the difference the Bible can make in their lives? Believing the answer to these questions is “no,” in this article we are attempting to set forth some “fundamental facts about the word of God.”

### The Word of God:

**1. Is inspired of God!** *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* (2 Tim. 3:16). “*Inspiration*” is translated from *theopneustos*, which is a compound word, consisting of *theos* (God), and *pneo* (to breathe). In brief, the scriptures were produced by the creative breath of God. One verse which illustrates the meaning of “*inspiration*” is Matt. 4:10 wherein Jesus told Satan that *“man shall not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”* The Bible is God’s revelation to man and “*inspiration*” is what kept the blunders of man out of the Bible. Hence, revelation plus inspiration equals the Bible.

**2. It is “profitable”** — *“profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”* (2 Tim. 3:16). “*Doctrine*” means teaching, or instruction. Any teaching which contradicts the Bible is false doctrine, which must be replaced by “*sound doctrine*,” Tit. 1:9. The word of God is profitable “*for reproof*,” which means censure, or rebuke. “*Reproof*” is translated from *elegmos*, which in its verb form appears in 2 Pet. 2:16 wherein we read that Balaam was “*rebuked for his iniquity*.” It is profitable “*for correction*.” “*Correction*” is translated from *epanorthosis*, which refers to “*improvement of life and character*” (Vine). The word of God is also “*profitable for...instruction in righteousness*..” “*Righteousness*,” according to Thayer, means “*integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correction of thinking, feeling, acting*.”

**3. The word of God is adequate.** It enables “*the man of God to be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*,” 2 Tim. 3:17. The holy scriptures are all that we need in order to know what God desires of us, and they equip us for “*every good work*.” Incidentally, any religious “*work*” not mentioned in the Bible is not a “*good work*!” We must distinguish between the “*doctrines and commandments of men*” (Matt. 15:9), and the divinely inspired instructions of God!

**4. The word of God is alive!** Note Hebrews 4:12: “*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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart*.” Please note the first part of this great verse — “*the word of God is living*!” Indeed it is! In I Peter 1:23 It is described as “*incorruptible*” seed which “*lives and abides forever*.” Many have tried to destroy the Bible, but it continues to abide, and it will abide “*forever*,” and by it the Lord will judge us in that last day, John 12:48. Not only is the word of God alive; it is also able to make **us** alive spiritually! Note James 1:18: “*Of His own will He brought us by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures*.” Formerly the saints at Ephesus had been “*dead in trespasses and sins*,” but they heard and obeyed the truth of the gospel and were thus “*made...alive...with Christ*” (Eph. 2:1-5). People who, upon being scripturally buried with Christ in baptism, are raised from that watery grave of baptism to “*walk in newness of life*,” Rom. 6:3-4. Not only is the word of God alive; it is able to make us “*alive...with Christ*,” Eph 2:5.

**5. The word of God is powerful!** Note Heb. 4:12 again: *“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 the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Among other things in this verse, the word of God is described as *“powerful.”* Indeed it is! The power of God’s word is evidenced in the very first chapter of the Bible. Note Gen. 1:3: *“Then God **said**, Let there be light, and there **was** light.”* The plain truth is this: God **spoke** the universe into existence! The Psalmist expressed it this way: *“For He **spoke**, and it was done, He commanded, and it stood fast,”* Psal. 33:6. The Genesis flood came about by reason of the word of God, and by that *“same word”* the *“heavens and the earth”* are *“preserved,”* being *“reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men,”* 2 Peter 3:5-7. God said concerning His word: *“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall **accomplish** what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it,”* Isa. 55:11. Its power was evidenced on the day of Pentecost when three thousand souls, having heard the word of God, repented and were baptized for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38-41. Its power has been evidenced in the lives of some who read these words, as is evidenced by its impacts upon your lives, the changes for good it has brought about in your heart and life.

**6. The word of God cannot be broken!** In John 10:35, while speaking to some unbelieving Jews, Jesus said *“the Scripture cannot be broken.”* *“Broken”* in this verse is translated from *luthenai*, which means *“to loosen, especially by way of deliverance,”* or of *“loosing the force of them, rendering them not binding”* (Vine, **Expository Dictionary of Biblical words**). Yes, man can disobey the Scriptures, but man can not loosen their force, or render them not binding! One person, or all humanity combined, can not make null and void even the least command of God. Indeed, *“the Scriptures cannot be broken!”*

**7. The word of God is complete!** Jesus assured His apostles that *“the Spirit of truth”* would guide them *“into all truth,”* John 16:13. Note 2 Peter 1:3: *“As His divine power has given us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”* Please observe; He has *“given us all things that pertain to life and godliness!”* *“Life”* in that verse pertains to spiritual life we enjoy with Christ and which leads to *“eternal life”* in heaven (Tit. 1:2). *“Godliness,”* from *Eusebia*, *“denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him”* (Vine, **Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**). Hence, we are not surprised to read of *“the doctrine which is according to godliness”* (I Tim. 6:3), and *“the truth which is according to godliness”* (Tit. 1:1), and *“the mystery of Godliness”* (I Tim. 3:16), and the necessity of *“godliness”* being a part of our character (2 Peter 1:5).

**8. The word of God must be rightly divided!** Note 2 Tim. 2:15: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15). Inasmuch as God *“cannot lie”* (Tit. 1:2), then His word is indeed *“the word of truth!”* But the command to *“rightly”* divide *“the word of truth”* necessarily infer the possibility of people **wrongly** dividing *“the word of truth!”* To *“rightly”* divide *“the word of truth,”* we must be able to distinguish between the Old and New Testaments; we must learn about the different dispensations in the Bible; in reading a given text we must analyze the context in order to discern who is speaking, who is being addressed, what is being discussed, etc.

**9. The word of God must be properly respected!** God does not give us permission to tamper with His word! Please note Rev. 22:18-19: *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away His part from the Book of life, from the holy city, and from the things which*

*are written in this book.”* Friend, language could not be clearer! Respect **for God** demands respect for His word, and disrespect for the word of God necessarily infers disrespect for God Himself. After all, who is man to take issue with **God**. And who is man to pit his word against **the word of God??**

**10. The word of God must be obeyed!** Jesus said “*Not everyone who says to Me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matt. 7:21). The apostle John, in the last Beatitude cited in the Bible said, “*Blessed are those who **do** His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city*” (Rev. 22:14).

**Conclusion:** Contained in this article are some (not all) Fundamentals facts of the word of God. In view of these facts we should have the attitude of David who said “*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my **meditation** all the day*” (Ps. 119:97), and who also said “*I have sworn and confirmed that I will **keep** your righteous judgments*” (Ps. 119:106). We are so blessed to live in a free society, in a land filled with Bibles, and so many opportunities to read, study, learn, and obey the word of God. So let us take full advantage of such wonderful opportunities!

\*\*\* —B. Witherington