

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #8 — WHY PUT SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE BIBLE?**

Now we want to go to our next major point, the sixth Roman numeral on our outline, to answer the question: Why do we put so much emphasis upon the Word of God? Why put so much emphasis upon the Word of God? Why is this Word of God so important? You know, some people say, “You people in the churches of Christ, you are Bibliolaters.” By that they mean, “You worship the Bible.” We don't worship the Bible. We worship the God of the Bible. But God has revealed His will for us in His Word. And that's why it's been so important to us. We know that is our safe and reliable standard of authority.

But we'd like to go to the Scriptures to answer the question: Why do we emphasize the Word of God so much? Why is it so important to us? And we'd like you to consider these qualities, and there are 49 qualities that we're going to list that, in recognizing these qualities, you will recognize that there is no other book about which these qualities are all true. It is only true of the Bible. Now we will go through this list with some speed. We'll try to do it as slowly as possible. We'll give references to you. Our purpose here is to let you feel the effect of God's Word in answering this question.

Let's consider some qualities about the Bible. First of all, it will make us free spiritually, if we continue to study and to live the Word of God. Jesus promised that in John 8, verse 31 and 32.

It can produce faith in the honest and good hearts of people (Romans 10, verse 17; and John 20, verse 30 and 31). It shows us the way of life, and of good, and of blessing (Deuteronomy 30, verse 15 and verse 19). That Word of God can work in us. It can work in us to bear fruit for the Lord, the fruit of the Spirit, if you will (1 Thessalonians 2, verse 13; Colossians 1, verse 6; Galatians 5, verse 22 and verse 23). It contains everything that we need that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter chapter 1, verse 3 and verse 4).

This Word of God can make us wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3, verse 15). Each one of us who is studying our Bibles together, wants to be saved from our sins, or we wouldn't put forth this time. And the Scriptures are what are able to make us wise unto salvation.

The Word of God is profitable. It's useful. It's practical, for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy, chapter 3, verse 16). So this is not just some academic exercise that we're involved in to learn as many facts as we can. We need to do that. But that's not enough. God wants us to use the Word of God in our lives, to correct ourselves, to improve in our righteousness, our obedience to the will of God.

The Word of God can make us complete, thoroughly furnished unto every good work. (2 Timothy 3, verse 17). No other book can do that. We can only go to the Word of God, to be made complete spiritually.

It is able to build us up, to strengthen us, and to give us an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith, which is in Christ Jesus (Acts 20, verse 32).

This Word of God is pure (Psalm 12, verse 6). And God will purify our hearts or our souls, if we obey that Word of God (1 Peter 1, verse 22).

It lives, abides, and endures forever (1 Peter 1, verse 23 and verse 25). It will never pass away (Matthew 24, verse 35). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word shall not pass away."

It will help us to grow (1 Peter 2, verse 2). That's another reason for our being in this study together, so that we can study the Word of God. And that's the way that He helps us to grow: through that Word. Peter says, "Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you made grow thereby." So if we want to grow spiritually, we need to provide our soul with the spiritual food of God's Word.

It is able to save our souls if we will engraft it in our hearts, in our minds (James 1, verse 21, and Ephesians, chapter 1, verse 13). Think about the picture language that God is revealing to us there. What do you do when you graft two plants together? Usually, you cut those plants, and you place them together, and stick them together, or tie them together until they grow together, so that they may grow and produce life. That's the way God is talking to us here. We need to take His Word. And we need to make it a part of our life. We need to engraft it in our hearts and our minds and live it. And He promises, if we do that, it will save our souls, our most precious possession.

It is the power of God unto salvation (Romans, chapter 1, verse 16). The word translated "power," literally is "dunamis." And we get our word "dynamite" from it, that shows the explosive power of God's Word, of the gospel of Christ, to blast sin out of our lives.

It reveals the righteousness, or the justification of God (Romans 1, verse 17). That is, as we go to the Scriptures and study God's Word, we can learn how to be justified, how to be declared innocent, acquitted of guilt, by God through His love, and through His mercy.

It tells us of the unsearchable riches of Christ. The fact that in Christ, God has placed all spiritual blessings (Ephesians, chapter 1, verse 3). Every blessing that we can have access to, while we're here on this earth is in Jesus. And those blessings are more valuable than all the money, the possessions, the things of this world.

The unsearchable riches of Christ are revealed in the Word of God (Ephesians 3, verse 8).

It is the perfect law of liberty, or the complete law of liberty (James 1, verse 25). It will liberate us, it will deliver us, from the bondage of sin. And provide us with the freedom from sin, or the bondage to sin, that plagued men in the past. Now, don't mistake that verse and say that because it's the perfect law of liberty, "I'm free to do whatever I want to do," as some in the religious world are saying today. That's not what God is talking about. It is a law that is binding upon us, but it delivers us from the bondage to sin.

It helps us not sin against God, if we hide it, or bury it, in our hearts, if we make it a part of our memory. Think about it, meditate upon it, bring it to our minds in times of trouble, then it will help us not sin against God (Psalm 119, verse 11).

We should turn to this precious, sacred Volume in times of affliction (Psalm 119, verse 50, and verse 71). When we're suffering, when things are difficult, when it seems like things are going against us, turn to the Word of God, in times of affliction such as that. And receive that comfort that we studied about in Romans 15, verse 4.

It is sweeter than honey to those who love it (Psalm 119, verse 103).

We get understanding through this Word of God (Psalm 119, verse 104). Some in the religious world today teach that we need some direct, mysterious, miraculous influence of the Holy Spirit on our hearts to understand the Word of God. That's as false as false could be. This passage, and others tell us, we get understanding through the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit revealed through the centuries of time. So that's how we get understanding that we need.

It is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). That's so important in a world filled with darkness, that we have the light that we need, in the Word of God. To lighten our way through this world, and to the better life, the eternal life reserved for us in heaven.

It is wonderful (Psalm 119, verse 129).

It gives light and it gives understanding (Psalm 119, verse 130). Again, some in the religious world say, "You need to have some mysterious direct enlightenment from the Holy Spirit to understand the Word of God." That's not what the Bible says. God says we get light and understanding through the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit revealed.

It is given to us to help order our steps (Psalm 119, verse 133). That is, as we go to this Word of God, we read it, we understand what God is saying to us. He's telling us that we need to make corrections. We need to discipline our life. We need to restrict our life to the path of righteousness. That's how we order our steps in the right way, the way of God.

It is to be meditated upon (Psalm 119, verse 148). It is truth (Psalm 119, verse 151, John 17:17, and Ephesians 1:13). It produces awe. That's a mixed feeling of reverence, honor, respect, and fear and wonder at God as we read His Word, and His power revealed therein (Psalm 119, verse 161).

It produces rejoicing, and it is written so that our joy might be full (Psalm 119, verse 162, 1 John 1, verse 4). We as children of God should rejoice as we read the Word of God.

It brings great peace to those who love it (Psalm 119, verse 165). It is righteousness (Psalm 119, verse 172). And Jesus promised that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we will be filled, or satisfied (Matthew chapter 5, verse 6).

It is perfect, converts the soul, and is sure, can be depended upon (Psalm 19, verse 7). It is right, rejoices the heart, it is pure, and enlightens the eyes (Psalm 19, verse 8).

It is more valuable than find gold (Psalm 119, verse 127). We see men and women around us in our daily lives, striving after the material things of life that they might be rich, materially. God says His Word is more valuable than fine gold and we need to spend more time studying that precious Volume.

It is Spirit, and it is life (John 6, verse 63). We're born again by the Word of God, as we render obedience to that Word (1 Peter 1, verse 23, 1 Corinthians 4, verse 15, and James 1, verse 18).

We live by the Word of God. Matthew 4, verse 4, Jesus said, "Man should live by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God."

It is the Word of eternal life (John 6, verse 68, and Philippians 2, verse 16). This is the only Book in the world to which we can go with confidence, and know that we can find out from God, how to receive that eternal life He has promised. That's why it's called the Word of salvation (Acts 13, verse 26). It is the Word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5, verse 19). We

know that the Bible teaches that our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59, verse 1, and 2). We need something to enable us to be reconciled to God; to be brought back for that gulf of sin to be wiped out. And that is told to us in the Word of God: it is the blood of Christ that eliminates that gulf, that gap.

It is quick, powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews, the fourth chapter, and verse 12).

It is the more sure Word of prophecy (2 Peter 1, verse 19). It's like a fire and a hammer that breaks rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23, verse 29). Those who have lived their life in the past in sin, and their hearts were hardened by sin. I can say that of myself; I know that's true. The Word of God can break those hearts up, that adamant stone. And we can be saved in our obedience to that Word.

It serves to exhort us (Hebrews chapter 13, verse 22). It makes us strong if we'll live in it, and let it live in us (1 John 2, verse 14).

And we'll be judged by that Word of God in the last day (John 12, verse 48, and Romans chapter 2, verse 16).

So why do we put so much emphasis upon the word of God? Because of all of these reasons, and others. Thanks be to God, that in His goodness, His love, His mercy, and His grace, He has revealed to us the precious words contained in the Bible. The light to guide us, the strength to give us, the strength that we need to persevere and fight the good fight of faith. The hope, the joy, the peace, the comfort in times of affliction, all of these things. What a precious book, what a precious gift, God has given us.

Now with those things in mind, may each one of us rededicate ourselves to studying it more, using it more effectively in our lives. And learning to teach others the beauty and joy of being a follower of God, a Christian, one who was purchased by the blood of Christ.

And we want to kind of summarize, put the final point, or final touches on that particular point, by looking at an anonymous quote. We don't know who the author is of this quote, but we feel like it certainly is accurate in the things that he said. Let's see what he said about the Bible, the Word of God.

“This old book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its histories are true, its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, and its decisions are immutable, or unchanging. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the travelers map, the pilgrim's staff, the sailor's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell are disclosed. Christ is its subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It has given you in life, will be open at the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.”

This quotation was extracted from the book, "Why I am a member of the Church of Christ," by Leroy Brownlow published by Brownlow publishing. We believe that is a very accurate quotation. And that person, summarized so many of the things that we studied, and looking at the Scriptures that we did in our last class, about why we put so much emphasis upon the Word of God. I hope and pray that each one of us, including myself, will look at the Bible with greater appreciation and gratitude, and apply ourselves better to the study of God's Word, as a result of looking at those scriptures and that quotation.