

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

with Bill Putman



**REAL LIFE**  
MINISTRIES





# Why study the Bible?

## **ACCURACY AND TRUTH:**

The Bible is different from any other book on earth - Although it was given in separate parts over a period of 1500 years and with 35 different writers, it is in complete harmony. It is the most reliable history book in the world, a fact that is proven by the science of Archeology.

The Bible is full of prophecy that has been fulfilled. Every prophecy concerning Jesus that was foretold in the Old Testament proved to be 100% accurate and was fulfilled in the New Testament. There were 300+ prophecies - and the odds of one person fulfilling them all is astronomical - and yet the New Testament shows that Jesus did! There were also many prophecies made regarding the world of the Bible's time period and after that History has proven to be true.

The Bible has been tested like no other book, and it has withstood every test. Even non-Christian writers living during that time period confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Every writer of the New Testament died declaring what they had written was true - and some even had to watch family members be killed for their testimony. Even so, they refused to recant. Do you know anyone that would willingly give their life and the lives of their loved ones for a lie?





## WISDOM, HELP, AND SALVATION

The Bible comes from God, and it is the key to knowing God and his will for our lives. God has given us His Word to be the final authority for our lives. It provides the answers for all of our needs and requests. Study of the Scriptures will give us greater discernment of the truth as we are walking through our daily lives in the world.

The Bible is full of practical help for working through relationships, raising and disciplining children, and holding on through struggles. It is where we get the most accurate definition of love - both in words and through the example Jesus gave us through his life.

The Bible shows us the only path to salvation through the life and person of Jesus Christ. It shares the history of God's chosen people and the fulfillment of his plan for us in the birth, life, death and resurrection of his Son.

Studying the Bible will awaken and strengthen our faith, God's word is both life giving and life sustaining to those who belong to Him. It gives us hope and freedom, and when we fix our mind and thoughts on it, it can lift us out of the darkness of this world and bring us into God's wonderful light.

**Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. (NLT)**

**John 17:17**



# How to study the Bible

Hopefully by this point you understand some of the reasons behind WHY you should be studying the Bible - now we will talk about HOW to do it.

## Tools and Study Helps:

In addition to the Bible itself there are other books and guides that can be helpful when it comes to studying and understanding God's Word. Most of these tools can be found online, in addition to being in print, which makes them easily accessible and affordable.

### First you will need a Bible:

When you begin to look for a Bible, you will find that it comes in many different versions. A version is simply a translation from the original languages placed into the language of the day. There are a few different types of translations - two of them are "Word by Word" and "Thought by Thought". Three of the word by word translations are the New American Standard Bible (NASB) the New International Version (NIV) and the English Standard Version (ESV). This is the best type of translation to use for in depth study of the text. An example of a thought by thought version would be the New Living Translation (NLT). This version is good for simple reading and understanding, which is important when you are just starting out.

In addition to a physical Bible, there are many online Bibles available. The YouVersion Bible is an app that you can put on your phone or tablet. It has many different available versions and even allows you a side by side view of different versions of the same picture. This is completely free and you can download it to your device for offline reading. It is available wherever you download your apps from. There are many more Bibles available online or in digital format.

### Additional Books to use:

- A Bible dictionary: This will be a very practical and useful reference book as you study Scripture. It will give you the meanings of the words and their context at the time.
- A Study Guide: There are many study guides available, many Bibles even come with a built in guide - these are called Study Bibles. Bible Study Guides include commentary, character studies, maps, charts, and detailed book introductions designed to help you apply Biblical principles in practical ways.
- A Concordance: This is an alphabetical list of the words present in a text, usually with citations of the passages concerned. A Bible concordance will show you where else the words occur throughout scripture so you can cross-reference them and gain a deeper understanding of the text.

Some websites have the Bible in many versions, along with study guides and concordances. Here are a couple of them.

- [Blueletterbible.org](http://Blueletterbible.org)
- [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)



# Where do I Start?

Now you have your tools and you are ready to go - so where do you start? Good question! The Bible is actually one book made up of many smaller books, so let's begin by looking at some of the divisions of the Bible.

## **The Old Testament:**

The Bible begins with what is called the Old Testament. This is basically a book of history. It is the history of God creating the world and man, and the history of his words and relationship with his people. This testament was divided into sections.

- The Law: (5 books) Genesis - Deuteronomy
- History: (12 books) Joshua - Esther
- Poetry: (5 books) Job-Song of Solomon
- Prophecy: (17 books) Isaiah - Malachi

## **The New Testament:**

The New Testament covers the birth of Christ, his training of the disciples, his death - burial - and resurrection, and the First Century Church. The New Testament can be divided into 4 sections:

- The Gospels: ( 4 books - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) These contain first hand documentation of the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ.
- The Acts: This book is about the beginning of the Church.
- The Epistles: (21 books) These are letters, written to individuals and to churches giving instructions on how to live the Christian life.
- Prophecy: (1 book) Revelation - this books tells the future of the Church.





# How do I study?

Spending time in Bible Study doesn't have to take a large amount of your time - although the more you do it you may find that you want to keep going! I will share a very simple method here that would be a great way to get started until you figure out your own rhythm. It is a good idea to have a notepad or a notes app open on your device to put down your thoughts as you go.

## Simple Study:

- Choose a passage of scripture. (The You-Version Bible has several Read the Bible in a Year reading plans if you want a daily scheduled scripture) <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>
- Pray and ask God to help you understand the passage.
- After you read through the passage - ask yourself the following questions about the text.
  - What one thing did I need to hear from God in this passage?
  - Is there a command for me to obey?
  - Is there an example for me to follow?
  - Is there something I am having a hard time understanding? (Plan to ask a friend/mentor or look it up in commentary or study guide.)
  - Are there any changes I need to make in my life because of what I have learned from this text?
  - When you are done, ask God to try to help you apply what you have learned as you go through your day.

*If you are unsure about how to pray - here is a simple prayer pattern that you can follow;*

This is a method of praying through the word ACTS:

A- Adoration: Take a good look at who God is and what he has done for you. Spend some time in praise of Him and his works..

C- Confession: Look back on your week and review your actions. Is there anything that you have failed to do? Any sin that you need to confess?

T- Thanksgiving: Take time to thank God for all he has done.

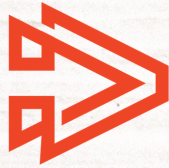
S- Supplication: This word means to ask for something humbly and earnestly. Spend some time asking God for what you need, and asking Him to help those around you who are struggling or in need. Also ask if he wants to use you to help them.

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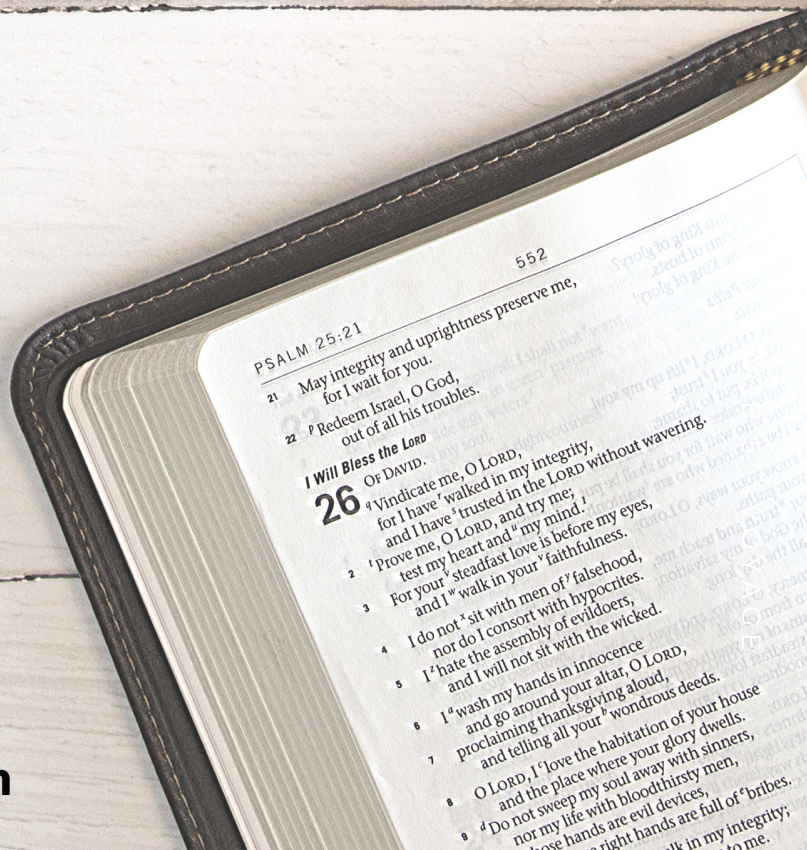
We hope this has been helpful for you, and we are excited that you have a desire to grow in your discipleship journey! Remember that God wants a personal relationship with us. That includes us reading and meditating on his Word and talking with him daily.

If you spend time daily doing these two things, you will be amazed at how transforming it will be in your life!





# REAL LIFE MINISTRIES



PSALM 26:21

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- 21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.  
22 Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.

**I Will Bless the Lord**  
OF DAVID.

- 26** Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have trusted in the LORD without wavering,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.  
2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and my mind.  
3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in your faithfulness.  
4 I do not sit with men of falsehood,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites.  
5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,  
and I will not sit with the wicked.  
6 I wash my hands in innocence  
and go around your altar, O LORD,  
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.  
7 O LORD, I love the habitation of your house  
and the place where your glory dwells.  
8 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,  
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,  
whose hands are full of bribes,  
whose right hands are full of gifts.  
9 My heart is steadfast, O LORD,  
and my heart is upright in your integrity;  
I will not bow down to idols,  
nor will I make a graven image for myself.