

The Bible

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, *"I know what the word Bible means!"* His father smiled and replied, *"Okay son, what does the word Bible mean?"* *"That's easy, Daddy, It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth!'"* That is a good acrostic to remember. Bible believers are very familiar with the following passage:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Did you notice that God's Word is a **direct** book? The Bible came from God directly to man through the process of inspiration. Other books may be "inspiring," but only the Bible is God breathed. Other books may have been written by literary geniuses, but only the Bible can claim God as its author. *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Pet. 1:21). Man needed help from above (Jer. 10:23; Pro. 29:18), and therefore, God revealed His Will to us. While many people read books, the Bible reads people. It reveals who we are inside (Jam. 1:23-24), and we may or may not like what we see. God knows us better than we know ourselves. His word is a testimony to that fact.

Did you notice that God's Word is a **dominant** book? The Bible "thoroughly" furnishes of equips. No other book covers a broader expanse than the Bible. It is an all encompassing, all-inclusive book. Peter writes,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Pet. 1:3).

Many are saying today, *"Let's bring Jesus into every area of our lives."* That is good, sounds theological. However, to bring Jesus into every area of our lives means we must bring His Word into every area of our lives. We can and should do this because the Bible speaks to both genders, all races, and every age group. It is a book that is relevant for the entirety of our lives and will judge us when this life is over (John 12:48). It is a book that deals with people's personalities, problems, and psyche. While there are facts in the Bible that must be believed, remember the Bible is not just a facts book, it is a faith book. For example, one verse in Genesis speaks of God's creation of the sun, moon, and stars (Gen. 1:16). However, a quarter of the book is devoted to the life of one man, Joseph. In his life we see God at work, and God wants to be at work in our lives, as well. The Bible meets our fundamental, basic needs, which are spiritual in nature.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and

spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

The Bible is not the book of the month, nor of the year, but the book of the ages.

Did you notice the Bible is a **desirable** book? For example, it is profitable, complete, and results in something good. Someone perhaps cynically responds, *"I find the Bible more demanding than desirable."* Of course, something profitable is demanding. Ask someone who has succeeded or excelled in some particular area and most likely that individual will mention someone who demanded much of him - perhaps a parent, teacher, coach or boss who pushed the individual to reach his full potential. God demands so much of us because He desires us so much. He created us, redeemed us, and longs for our association throughout eternity. Therefore, His word demands our attention and our devotion. Learn the Bible, Love the Bible, Live the Bible. It's message is clear. The Author of the Book, the Hero and central focus of the Bible, loves you and is calling you to follow Him.

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