

transform
discipleship mentoring

Obeying Christ...Making Disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples..”

Matthew 28:19

LEVEL ONE

ESTABLISH

Transformed Relationship



3

A Discipleship Ministry Resource Provided by
Faith Assembly of God

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God Word: Our Foundation for Victory

Establishing Transformed Relationships

INTRODUCTION

Knowing God in a personal way is the most important relationship in life. Getting to know Him better (John 17:3) will give your life meaning and fulfillment. In the two previous lessons we made sure you were sure that you are saved and that you have fellowship with God, through His Holy Spirit. This lesson will help you understand the how important God's Word, the Bible, is to the ongoing growth to your Christian walk. So to get you started let me give you a few pointers that will help you with this new daily practice. We call this **"doing your devotions."**

1. **Before you read your Bible, Pray.** The Bible is not like other books. It is God's Word to men, and God has something to say. So, I encourage you to read with this attitude: God, thank you so much for your word. Help me today as I listen to what you have to say. Give me your grace as I read and help me to understand and obey your commands.
2. **Read your Bible slowly and thoughtfully.** You will find that sometimes you may have to read a passage several times. As you practice this approach you will also find that you will see more the second and third time around.
3. **Take some time to think about what the Bible says.** Ask yourself or turn these questions into prayers : What can I learn from this passage? Is there a promise I can hold on to? Is there a command I must follow? Is there a sin I must avoid? How can I apply this verse to my life?
4. **It might be a good discipline to keep a journal.** This is a great way to remember what God reveals or speaks to you during your quiet times / devotions. In addition to a journal also have a note pad to jot down questions that may come to you. Then, when you get together with a friend or a mentor, you can ask them to explain.

If we want to grow in our relationship with God, we must be able to hear and understand what God is saying to us. If we want to grow and be fruitful Christians, we need to read and respond to the Bible with a willingness to obey it.

George Washington, one of the founding fathers of our nation said it so right when he said ... *"It is impossible to rightly govern our world without God and the Bible."* I am convinced, the same principle applies to our lives as believers. We cannot govern our lives rightly without a right relationship with God and a daily intake of His precious Word.

"So now, brethren, I commend you **to God and to the word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

- Acts 20:32

What can be gained from the study of the Bible?

One of my favorite scriptures I loved as I was growing/maturing in my relationship with Christ was **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (NKJV).

16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete (perfect...meaning mature), thoroughly equipped for every good work."

How can we profit from God's Word:

1. **Doctrine**: Refers to the teaching of truth! If man was inspired by God to write the scriptures, then it would be safe to say that the Bible is God method or pathway for teaching us truth through his Word. This is critical!

2. **Reproof**: Refers to a "sharp, stern, disapproval of". Now, if we count on the fact that the Bible is God's truth, we will use it as a measure by which we order our lives. The Word of God can only rebuke us when it is believed to be the truth. This is important!

3. **Correction**: Refers and means "to right up again, set to rights, to restore." Just as a compass and rudder can set right the course of the ship, so can the inspired Word of God with our lives. This can be challenging at times but with the help of the Holy Spirit, very possible.

4. **Instruction in Righteousness**: The word "Instruction" sometimes translated means discipline. Our discipline in reading the Bible has as its focus the goal of growth in righteousness. Although we have a positional righteousness because of the cross of Christ, the ongoing discipline of allowing God's truth to instruct us begins for us a path toward a practice of right actions (righteousness) that glorifies Christ and evidences a life submitted to the Christ (John 14:15.)

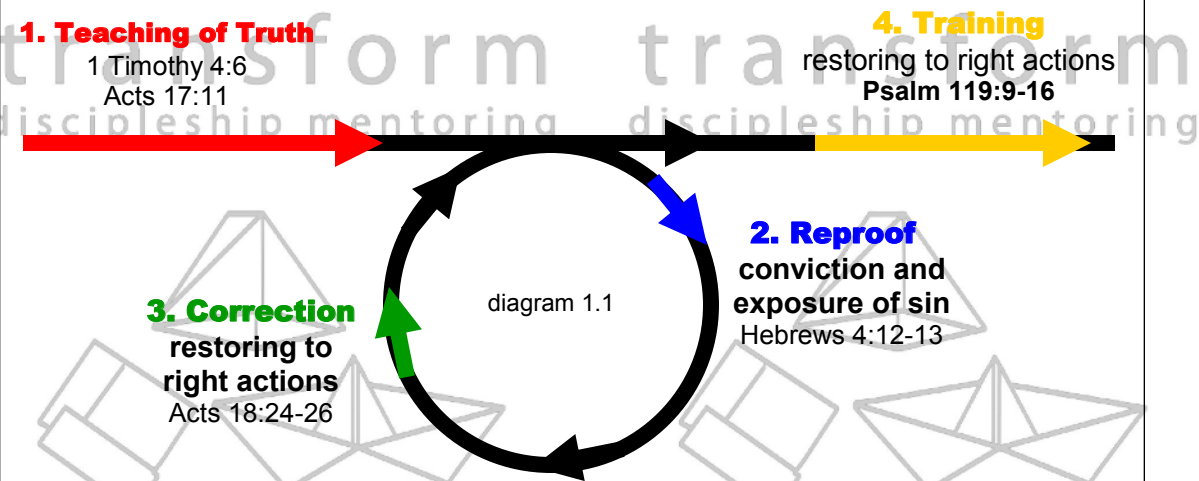
The Bible, the Word of God... if you allow it to instruct you / work in you, it will not only produce maturity and right actions that glorify God, it will also prepare you for the fulfillment of God's purpose and plan for your life. **(see verse 17 and the diagram 1.1 on the next page)**

I encourage you to implement a regular intake of God's Word and prayer and you will live a powerful life. You will not only live victoriously yourself, but you will encourage others to do so by your example. May God bless you richly!

Have a blast today! - Pastor John

What can be gained from the study of the Bible?

The diagram below illustrates the ongoing work of the scriptures in the disciple's life



According to 2 Timothy 3:16 **M**
When the Bible is allowed to minister to us, we will profit in 4 ways

The Bible - the Word of God - is our absolute standard of TRUTH, against which all other instruction must be measured. The Old and New Testament together provide for us a complete guide for our growing life of faith in Jesus Christ.

Personal Reflection: Read the following passages and write your thoughts on God's desire to reveal His truth to you. - **Psalm 119:30, Matthew 11:25-26, and 1 Corinthians 1:19-31.**

The Value of God's Word

If we don't read the Bible,

1. we will walk in darkness

Read: Psalm 119:105 and 119:130

2. we won't be straight and clear on doctrine and we will be open to deception

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Timothy 4:1-2

3. we will have no food and nourishment for our spirit

We must feed our spirit and well as our body.

Read: Matthew 4:4, Jeremiah 15:16, and John 6:63

4. we won't have faith.

We cannot believe God and exercise faith beyond our actual knowledge of God's Word. Example...divine healing, victory over fear, the armor of God, and prosperity.

Read: Romans 10:17

5. we will not grow spiritually.

Read: 1 Peter 2:1-2

6. we will be weak, and impotent.

Read: 1 John 2:14

7. we will turn our backs on God, backslide and won't prosper.

Read: Psalm 37:31, Hebrews 10:38-39, and Psalm 1:3

Only when we have a right relationship with the written word of God in our life can we expect to walk in prosperity and success.

Read - Joshua 1: 8 - There are three basic things to live by in Joshua 1:8

1. Keep the Bible, the word of God, in our mouth, and keep speaking it.
2. Keep meditating on the scriptures, the Bible.
3. Keep on being a doer of the word in our lives. (practicing, obeying, acting on)

I encourage you to place the reading of the scripture as a high priority on your daily list. It will keep you on the right path and keep you from sinning against God.

Memorize: Joshua 1:8 **M** **Have a blessed day!**



Lesson 3

God's Word: Our Foundation for Victory

ESTABLISH

Transformed Relationships

Difference between Old & New Testament

The Old Testament lays the foundation for the teachings and events found in the New Testament. The Bible is a progressive revelation. If you skip the first half of any good book and try to finish it, you will have a hard time understanding the characters, the plot, and the ending. In the same way, the New Testament is only completely understood when it is seen as a fulfillment of the events, characters, laws, sacrificial system, covenants, and promises of the Old Testament.

If we only had the New Testament, we would come to the gospels and not know why the Jews were looking for a Messiah (a Savior King). Without the Old Testament, we would not understand why this Messiah was coming (see Isaiah 53), and we would not have been able to identify Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah through the many detailed prophecies that were given concerning Him, e.g., His birthplace (Micah 5:2); His manner of death (Psalm 22, especially vv. 1, 7-8, 14-18; Psalm 69:21), His resurrection (Psalm 16:10), and many more details of His ministry (Isaiah 52:19, 9:2). Without the Old Testament, we would not understand the Jewish customs that are mentioned in passing in the New Testament.

The New Testament Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the book of Acts record for us many of the fulfillments of prophecies that were recorded hundreds of years earlier in the Old Testament. In the circumstances of Jesus' birth, life, miracles, death, and resurrection as found in the Gospels, we find the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that relate to the Messiah's first coming. It is these details that validate Jesus' claim to be the promised Christ. And even the prophecies in the New Testament (many of which are in the book of Revelation) are built upon earlier prophecies found in Old Testament books. These New Testament prophecies relate to events surrounding the second coming of Christ. Roughly two out of three verses in Revelation are based on or related to Old Testament verses.

Also, because the revelation in Scripture is progressive, the New Testament brings into focus teachings that were only alluded to in the Old Testament. The book of Hebrews describes how Jesus is the true High Priest and how His one sacrifice replaces all of the previous sacrifices, which were mere portrayals. The Old Testament gives the Law, which has two parts: the commandments and the blessing/curse that comes from obedience or disobedience to those commands. The New Testament clarifies that God gave those commandments to show men their need of salvation; they were never intended to be a means of salvation (Romans 3:19).

The Old Testament describes the sacrificial system God gave the Israelites to temporarily cover their sins. The New Testament clarifies that this system alluded to the sacrifice of Christ through whom alone salvation is found (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 10:4-10). The Old Testament saw paradise lost; the New Testament shows how paradise was regained for mankind through the second Adam (Christ) and how it will one day be restored. The Old Testament declares that man was separated from God through sin (Genesis chapter 3), and the New Testament declares that man can now be restored in his relationship to God (Romans chapters 3-6). The Old Testament predicted the Messiah's life. The Gospels primarily record Jesus' life, and the Epistles interpret His life and how we are to respond to all He has done.

In summary, the Old Testament lays the foundation for, and was meant to prepare the Israelites for, the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) who would sacrifice Himself for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). The New Testament shares the life of Jesus Christ and then looks back on what He did and how we are to respond to His gift of eternal life and live our lives in gratitude for all He has done for us (Romans 12). Both testaments reveal the same holy, merciful, and righteous God who must condemn sin but who desires to bring to Himself a fallen human race of sinners through the forgiveness only possible through Christ's atoning sacrifice. In both testaments, God reveals Himself to us and how we are to come to Him through Jesus Christ. In both testaments, we find all we need for eternal life and godly living (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

- This information was taken from www.gotquestions.org

The Holy Spirit: Author of Scripture

2 Peter 1:20-21 **M**

“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

The Bible as the Word of Man and the Word of God

Why? Why has the Bible had this abiding relevance and power? I believe the answer is found in our text. 2 Peter 1:20–21, “First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but *men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*” This passage teaches that when you read Scripture, what you are reading does not merely come from a man but also from God. The Bible is the writing of many different men. But it is also far more than that. Yes, men spoke. They spoke with their own language and style. But Peter mentions two other dimensions of their speaking.

First, they spoke from God. What they have to say is not merely from their own limited perspective. They are not the origin of the truth they speak; they are the channel. The truth is God’s truth. Their meaning is God’s meaning.

Second, not only is what they spoke from God, but how they spoke it is controlled by the Holy Spirit. “Men, *moved by the Holy Spirit*, spoke from God.” God did not simply reveal truth to the writers of Scripture and then depart in hopes that they might communicate it accurately. Peter says that in the very communicating of it they were carried by the Holy Spirit. The making of the Bible was not left to merely human skills of communication; the Holy Spirit himself carried the process to completion.

Personal Reflection: Read the following bible verses and reflect on what you are learn about the inspiration of scripture. **Isaiah 30:8, Jeremiah 30:1-2, Matthew 5: 18, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:10-11 and 2 Peter 1:21**

The truth of God’s inspiration of the scriptures should be the most important beliefs of a follower of Christ. Our convictions concerning the way God has revealed His Word to humanity will directly affect how we view God’s Word for our own lives.

- Rev. Thomas W. Keinath, D.Min.

Review Questions - Lesson 3

1. When a person reads the Word, what is necessary on their part if their desire is to grow and be a fruitful Christian? p.19

2. Besides maturity and right actions, what will the Bible also prepare you for? p.20

3. Using diagram 1.1 on p.21, explain your understanding of how the scripture work in the believers life?

4. When it comes to exercising our faith in God, why is knowledge of His word essential? p.22

5. If the Old Testament declares that man was separated from God through sin in Genesis chapter 3, what does the New Testament declare in Romans chapters 3-6? p.23

6. If the scriptures did not come from the will of man, where did they come from? p.24

7. Why should God's inspiration of the scriptures be the most important beliefs of a follower of Christ? p.24

Remember:
Seven days without reading the Word makes one weak!