

## The Christian and the Word of God

Series 1-10

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### **Introduction to the Series: The Christian and the Word of God**

#### ***Becoming Bible-Built, Scripture-Shaped, and Sword-Ready in the Last Days***

There has never been a more urgent time for Christians to know, believe, and hold fast to the Word of God. In a generation drowning in deception, divided by ideologies, and desensitized by entertainment, the one anchor that never shifts is the **living, breathing, eternal Word of the living God**. It is not just sacred literature—it is **the mind of Christ revealed, the truth of heaven preserved, and the weapon of war in the hands of the believer**.

This series, *The Christian and the Word of God*, was born from a burden. A burden to see the Church return to its roots. A burden to awaken casual believers to the reality that **no Christian can thrive apart from the Scriptures**. And a burden to remind this generation that **every spiritual battle begins and ends with what God has said**.

From Genesis to Revelation, God speaks—and when He does, everything changes. He spoke the worlds into existence. He spoke covenants into being. He spoke judgment, mercy, prophecy, redemption, and resurrection. And when God gave us the Bible, He didn't just give us truth—He gave us **the foundation for every thought, action, and doctrine that defines the Christian life**.

#### **The Purpose of This Series**

This 10-part series is designed to do more than inform—it is meant to **transform**. It is written for:

- The believer who wants to grow deeper in the Word.
- The parent who wants to disciple their family in truth.
- The teacher or pastor who wants to rightly divide and faithfully feed.
- The online voice who wants to speak boldly in a Bible-rejecting world.

- The new Christian who's never been taught how to study, apply, and live by the Word of God.

Each essay is a doctrinal and devotional deep dive—blending Scripture, application, and conviction. Every chapter builds upon the last, forming a roadmap for **how to live a Bible-saturated life**.

We begin with the basics of what the Word is, why it's necessary, and how to study it rightly (essays 1–4). Then we deal with the reality of false teachers and Satan's attacks against the Bible (essays 5–7). Finally, we shift to practical boldness—how to guard your mind with the Word, teach it to others, and stand for it without compromise (essays 8–10).

By the end of this series, the goal is simple: **That you would become a Christian who lives by the Book, teaches the Book, and stands on the Book—even when the world says throw it away.**

### **Why This Matters More Than Ever**

We are living in days of increasing darkness. Moral relativism has replaced biblical morality. Experience has replaced doctrine. Psychology has replaced theology. And feelings have replaced faith. Yet Scripture warned us of this long ago:

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... and they shall turn away their ears from the truth.” – 2 Timothy 4:3–4*

That time is no longer coming—it is here.

False teachers have flooded pulpits and platforms. Modern Bible versions have diluted the authority of God's Word. Many churches today avoid Scripture altogether or twist it to fit cultural trends. But in every generation, God has a remnant—a group of believers who do not bend, who do not bow, and who **hold forth the Word of life** (Philippians 2:16).

This series is a call to **be part of that remnant**.

### **A Return to Rightly Dividing and Deeply Believing**

The Bible is not a buffet. We don't get to pick and choose. It is a divinely ordered book, written across centuries, through human vessels, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. But it must be rightly handled, carefully divided (2 Timothy 2:15), and taught in context—or else it becomes dangerous in the wrong hands.

This series will equip you to:

- Avoid doctrinal confusion by learning how to rightly divide the Bible.

- Build daily habits that fill your mind with truth instead of the world.
- Spot false teachers who twist the Bible for gain, power, or popularity.
- Understand why **Bible preservation matters** and why the **King James Bible** stands alone as the preserved, pure, trustworthy Word of God in English.
- Teach the Word clearly—whether in your home, your church, your online community, or your one-on-one discipleship.
- Live boldly, speak faithfully, and defend the truth with grace in a generation that’s offended by truth.

### **Final Charge**

In these last days, it’s not enough to simply believe in the Bible. We must **know it, obey it, speak it, and stand on it**—no matter the cost. This world does not need another clever Christian, another soft sermon, or another Instagram theology guru.

It needs men and women **anchored in the Word**, filled with the Spirit, and willing to **hold forth the truth with both compassion and conviction**.

So let the journey begin.

Let this series fuel your resolve to live unashamed.

Let the pages of this series drive you deeper into the pages of Scripture.

And when the storms rage, and the crowds mock, and the pressure rises—

**Hold forth the Word.**

## **1 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – The Word is Life: Why Every Believer Must Live in the Scriptures**

### **Introduction: The Living Book in a Dying World**

We live in a world starving for truth, gasping for hope, and grasping at anything that promises peace. Meanwhile, the average Christian owns multiple Bibles—but often lets them collect dust. In the chaos of modern life, many have reduced the Bible to a coffee

table decoration or Sunday-only reference book. But the Bible is not a book to be admired from a distance. It is a book to be lived in.

The Scriptures are not just words on paper. They are **living words** from a **living God**, and they are the **source of spiritual life** for every believer. Without them, you cannot grow. Without them, you will not stand. And without them, you will not finish your course with joy. This essay opens our ten-part series with the foundation: why the Word of God must be central—not optional—in the daily life of every Christian.

## 1. The Bible Is the Breath of God

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* (2 Timothy 3:16)

The phrase "inspiration of God" literally means **God-breathed**. The Bible is not just ancient text—it is the very breath of the Almighty. It carries His authority, power, purity, and presence. Every word has life in it (John 6:63). To read the Bible is to inhale the spiritual breath your soul needs.

Just as a newborn baby instinctively gasps for air, so the newborn believer must begin breathing in the Word. Without it, spiritual suffocation sets in. The Bible is not just devotional—it is **survival**. In a world choking on lies, the Word of God is oxygen.

## 2. Man Shall Not Live by Bread Alone

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus Himself declared that spiritual life is sustained not by material things, but by the **Word of God**. Just as your physical body will weaken and collapse without food, your spiritual life will wither and die without the Word.

Notice the phrase: "**every word**". That means we are not only to know the promises and stories, but the doctrines, rebukes, instructions, genealogies, warnings, and prophetic truths. Every word is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16). Skipping your Bible is not like missing dessert—it's like missing oxygen and nutrients. It's not optional. It's life.

## 3. The Word Cleanses and Keeps Us From Sin

*"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."*

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* (Psalm 119:9,11)

No Christian can walk clean in this world without the Word. You can't survive temptation, fight lust, resist anger, or overcome pride without **Scripture** embedded in your heart and mind. God's Word is a shield, a lamp, a mirror, and a sword.

The more of the Word you absorb, the more **discernment, conviction, and strength** you'll walk in. The less of the Word you absorb, the more confused, emotionally driven, and vulnerable you become. You can't live in victory while starving your soul.

#### **4. The Word is the Source of Faith**

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)*

Every believer wants to grow in faith. But faith doesn't come by experience or emotion—it comes by **hearing the Word**. The more you fill yourself with the promises, patterns, and power of Scripture, the more confidence you'll have in God.

Faith is not wishful thinking. Faith is confidence in what God has said. If you want more faith, you need more Bible. Not just reading, but *hearing* it—whether spoken aloud, taught, or meditated on. When the Word fills your thoughts, faith flourishes.

#### **5. The Word of God Discerns and Divides**

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword..."  
"...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)*

The Bible doesn't just teach—it **discerns**. It cuts deep. It exposes the motives, sins, and hypocrisies we try to hide. No psychologist, no counselor, and no sermon can penetrate like the living Word of God.

This is why some avoid it. It's not because they don't have time—it's because they don't want conviction. But the believer who truly wants to grow must invite the Word to pierce the soul, confront sin, and bring transformation. The Word won't flatter you—it will *free* you.

#### **6. Jesus is the Living Word**

*"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14)*

To neglect the Bible is to neglect Christ Himself. Jesus is the **Word made flesh**. He is the embodiment of God's truth. When you read the Bible, you are not just gaining knowledge—you are **meeting with Jesus**.

Too many Christians separate their relationship with Christ from their relationship with the Bible. That is impossible. To walk closely with Jesus is to walk deeply in His Word. If you want more of Him, go deeper into **His Book**. There is no intimacy with Christ apart from the Scriptures.

## 7. The Word Transforms the Mind

*"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*  
(Romans 12:2)

The mind is the battleground of the Christian life. The world wants to mold your thoughts. The devil wants to deceive your mind. Your flesh wants to indulge itself. But the Bible has the power to **renew** and **transform** the way you think.

God's Word replaces lies with truth, fear with faith, anxiety with assurance, and confusion with clarity. The more you saturate your thoughts with the Word, the more you'll think like Christ. The Word rewires your inner life and makes you spiritually stable.

## 8. The Bible is Not Just for Pastors and Teachers

Too many Christians believe the Bible is too deep, too confusing, or too theological for them. They rely on preachers, devotionals, or commentaries to chew their food for them. But God's Word was given to **every believer**, not just scholars or pastors.

*"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."* (Psalm 119:130)

You don't need a seminary degree—you need a **hungry heart**. The Holy Spirit is your teacher (John 14:26). If you'll open the Book with faith and humility, God will open your eyes. The Bereans searched the Scriptures **daily** (Acts 17:11). Why? Because every believer is called to be a student of truth.

## 9. Starving Christians Become Compromising Christians

When the Word is neglected, discernment disappears. Convictions weaken. Emotions take over. That's why so many Christians fall for false teachers, worldly trends, and shallow messages. They are **malnourished**.

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."* (Hosea 4:6)

Satan doesn't have to get you to deny the Bible—he just has to get you to ignore it. A Word-starved Christian is a weak, wandering Christian. But a Word-fed Christian is dangerous to the enemy, strong in doctrine, and bold in truth.

The devil fears a Bible-saturated Christian more than a conference room full of motivational speakers. You don't need a stage or a platform—you need a sword in your hand and Scripture in your heart.

## **10. Final Authority: The Bible is the Standard, Not Experience**

In a world full of opinions, feelings, and shifting values, the Bible is the final authority. You don't interpret truth through your emotions—you interpret your emotions through truth. The Christian must say with confidence:

*"Thus saith the Lord."*

The Bible corrects false doctrines, false prophecies, and false experiences. It is the **measuring rod** of all truth. Dreams, visions, impressions, and traditions mean nothing if they contradict the Word.

*"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)*

If the Bible is not your authority, your Christianity is built on sand.

## **Conclusion: Live By It, Die With It, Rise Through It**

The Bible is not outdated, overrated, or optional. It is **alive**, and it will outlast every book, trend, and culture. It is God's chosen way to communicate, correct, cleanse, equip, and comfort His people.

You must choose daily: Will you **live in the Word**, or will you live on borrowed truth from social media and podcasts? Will you be a workman who rightly divides (2 Timothy 2:15) or a wanderer who's easily deceived?

You don't need a new word from God—you need to **obey the old one**.

This is your sword. This is your anchor. This is your lamp. This is your lifeline.

Pick it up. Read it. Study it. Memorize it.

**Live it.**

## **2 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Rightly Dividing the Word: Understanding Context, Audience, and Application**

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15*

### **Introduction: The Bible Is a Sword – But You Must Know Where to Cut**

The Word of God is not a jigsaw puzzle, but many treat it like one—forcing verses together that don’t belong, borrowing promises meant for others, and forming doctrines out of disconnected fragments. The result is **confusion, legalism**, and a body of Christ unsure of its identity or its mission.

God gave us a command in 2 Timothy 2:15 to “**rightly divide the word of truth.**” This isn’t optional. It’s not a hobby for theologians or a bonus skill for pastors. It is a **mandate for every believer**. To rightly divide means to **cut straight**, to handle the Scripture with precision, understanding **who God is talking to, when He’s talking to them, and what He’s saying in that moment.**

This essay explores the biblical principle of **dispensational study**—understanding God’s progressive revelation across time, how to avoid doctrinal confusion, and how to see the distinction between **Israel and the Church, law and grace, the Kingdom and the Body**. When we rightly divide the Word, the Bible becomes clear, powerful, and deeply personal.

### **1. The Command to Rightly Divide – Not Just Read**

Paul doesn’t tell Timothy to simply “read” or “memorize” the Scriptures. He tells him to **study** and to **rightly divide** them.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God...” (2 Timothy 2:15)

The word *study* here means diligent effort, labor, and mental application. The phrase “rightly divide” comes from the Greek *orthotomeō*, meaning **to cut straight**, like a skilled craftsman making precise measurements.

This means Scripture must be handled with **accuracy**, not assumption.

We are commanded to:

- Know the **context** (who, when, why).
- Understand the **audience** (Israel, the Church, Gentiles).

- Make **appropriate application** (doctrinal, devotional, historical).

The Bible is not contradictory. But if you blur its lines, you'll end up with spiritual schizophrenia—trying to obey both Moses and Paul, walk in both law and grace, and claim promises that don't belong to you.

## 2. What is Dispensational Study?

A **dispensation** is a period of time in which God deals with man in a specific way. It's not that God changes—He doesn't—but **His instructions, expectations, and administration vary** across time and covenants.

“If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward...” – *Ephesians 3:2*

There are **seven classic dispensations** many Bible believers recognize:

1. Innocence (Adam before the Fall)
2. Conscience (Fall to the Flood)
3. Human Government (Post-Flood to Babel)
4. Promise (Abraham to Moses)
5. Law (Moses to Christ)
6. Grace (Church Age—now)
7. Kingdom (Millennial Reign of Christ)

Each dispensation is marked by:

- A **stewardship** of truth
- A **test of obedience**
- A **failure** of man
- A **judgment**
- A **transition** into a new administration

Understanding dispensations allows us to read **Moses, David, Isaiah, Peter, and Paul** in their proper place, without ripping Scripture out of its timeline.

### 3. Mixing Law and Grace Creates Confusion

One of the most common doctrinal errors today is **mixing the law given to Israel** with the **grace given to the Church**. This happens when people fail to rightly divide.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” – *John 1:17*

When people try to blend these two systems, it creates:

- **Guilt-ridden Christians** trying to keep sabbaths and dietary laws.
- **Tithing confusion**, treating Old Testament storehouse laws as Church mandates.
- **Salvation confusion**, where works (baptism, confession, repentance of sin) are added to grace.

Under law: *Do and live.*

Under grace: *Believe and live.*

They are not the same covenant. They serve different purposes.

The law was given to **Israel** as a national covenant. It was fulfilled and nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14). The Church is not under the law (Romans 6:14). Christ is the **end of the law for righteousness** to every believer (Romans 10:4).

### 4. Israel and the Church – Know the Difference

Much confusion arises when believers apply promises, warnings, and commands **given to Israel** directly to the **Church**.

Israel is:

- A physical nation.
- With land promises.
- A covenant people.
- Under the Mosaic Law.
- Awaiting a literal, earthly kingdom.

The Church is:

- A spiritual body.
- With **heavenly** promises.

- Jew and Gentile in one new man (Ephesians 2:15).
- Under grace.
- Awaiting the **rapture**, not the Kingdom.

Examples of confusion when this is ignored:

- **“If my people... will humble themselves”** (2 Chronicles 7:14) is often applied to America or the Church. But it’s a covenant promise to **Israel**, tied to their land and temple.
- **Matthew 24** is often treated as instruction for the rapture, but it’s clearly about the **Tribulation**, written to Jews in Judea fleeing the Antichrist.
- **The Sermon on the Mount** teaches kingdom ethics for a Jewish audience awaiting Messiah, not salvation by grace through faith.

The Church is not spiritual Israel. It is something **entirely new** (1 Corinthians 10:32 separates Jews, Gentiles, and the Church). Failure to rightly divide leads to replacement theology, legalism, and doctrinal collapse.

## 5. Kingdom vs. the Body of Christ

The New Testament speaks of the **Kingdom of Heaven**, the **Kingdom of God**, and the **Body of Christ**. These are not interchangeable.

- The **Kingdom of Heaven** is a literal, earthly kingdom promised to Israel.
- The **Kingdom of God** is a spiritual realm of all saved people.
- The **Body of Christ** is the Church—a spiritual organism made of saved people between Pentecost and the Rapture.

Jesus and John the Baptist preached the **Kingdom of Heaven is at hand**—because the King was present and offering the Kingdom to Israel. When they rejected Him, the **Kingdom offer was postponed** and the mystery of the **Church** was revealed to Paul (Ephesians 3:5–6).

We are not building the Kingdom today. We are not awaiting Messiah to conquer Rome. We are part of a mystery body—**the Church**, awaiting the trumpet to meet Him in the air.

## 6. What Happens When We Don’t Divide Properly?

When Scripture is not rightly divided, people:

- Preach **law-based salvation** (like baptism, sacraments, or confessing sins).
- Expect **miracles and signs** meant for apostolic Israel (Mark 16:17–18).
- Teach that we are **currently in the Kingdom**, ignoring the literal 1,000-year reign of Christ (Revelation 20).
- Apply **tribulation verses** to the Church (like enduring to the end for salvation).
- Misinterpret **James, Hebrews, Matthew**, and Acts as Church-age instruction when they often target Israel or transitional periods.

This causes weak churches, misled saints, and false teachers to thrive.

God didn't tell us to cut Scripture out—He told us to **cut it straight**.

## 7. Every Scripture Is For Us, But Not Every Verse Is To Us

Paul said:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...” – *2 Timothy 3:16*

That means every book, every verse, every chapter of the Bible is **for our profit**. But not all of it is **to us** directly.

For example:

- **Genesis 6** is for us to learn from—but God didn't tell us to build an ark.
- **Leviticus 11** is Scripture—but we are not under dietary law.
- **Matthew 10:5–6** forbids the apostles from going to Gentiles—that's not your command today.
- **Psalms 51:11** asks God not to take His Spirit away—something no Church-age believer needs to pray.

You can **learn from every passage**, but you must **apply it rightly**. Ask:

- Who is speaking?
- Who are they speaking to?
- What covenant or dispensation are they in?

- Is this doctrinal, historical, or devotional?

## 8. Paul: The Apostle to the Church Age

Understanding **Paul's distinct apostleship** is critical to rightly dividing.

“Inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.” – *Romans 11:13*

Paul received direct revelation from the risen Christ—not from Peter, James, or John (Galatians 1:12). He was entrusted with the **mystery** of the Church, the **gospel of grace**, the **rapture**, and the **sealing of the Spirit**—doctrines not revealed before.

If you want to understand **how to live as a Church-age believer**, you must study Paul's letters—Romans through Philemon—as your foundation. This is not to diminish the rest of Scripture but to **build your doctrine where God is speaking directly to you**.

## 9. Devotional vs. Doctrinal Application

Devotionally, you can find application anywhere. David's courage, Elijah's prayer life, Joseph's integrity—these are all for our instruction and growth.

But **doctrinal application** requires dividing:

- When David prays, “take not thy Holy Spirit from me,” we don't pray that today—we are sealed (Ephesians 1:13).
- When Jesus says, “He that endureth to the end shall be saved,” that's not the plan of salvation today—it's a **tribulation context**.

Devotion warms the heart. Doctrine anchors the soul.

You need both—but never substitute emotion for **contextual accuracy**.

## 10. Conclusion: Cut It Straight or Cut Yourself

The Bible is a sword (Hebrews 4:12). But like any sharp tool, if you don't handle it carefully, you'll **cut yourself instead of the enemy**.

Rightly dividing doesn't complicate the Bible—it clarifies it.

It allows you to:

- Understand how God has dealt with man across history.
- Avoid contradictions and confusion.
- Live in the right covenant, with the right promises.
- Preach the gospel with clarity and power.
- Teach others how to walk in truth and not error.

The Word of God is not meant to be blurred. It's meant to be **divided with reverence and precision**. You don't need to be a scholar—but you do need to be a **workman**.

“A workman that needeth not to be ashamed...”

Because one day, you'll stand before the Author.

And He will ask:

Did you read it?

Did you believe it?

And did you **handle it properly**?

### **3 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Hearing from God Daily: Building an Unshakable Bible Habit**

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” – Colossians 3:16*

*“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” – Colossians 3:10*

#### **Introduction: One Voice Above All Others**

In a world full of noise, distractions, and endless digital chatter, there is only **one voice** you need to hear daily: the voice of God through His Word.

Many Christians say they want to hear from God, but they wait for dreams, impressions, or signs. Meanwhile, their Bible remains unopened. God has already spoken. His Word is alive, complete, and personal—and if you want to grow, be guided, and stay grounded, you must hear from Him **daily**.

This essay lays the foundation for building an **unshakable Bible habit**. It's not just about discipline—it's about **relationship**. Hearing from God through Scripture isn't a religious

duty; it's the soul's daily breath. If you're tired of inconsistency, dry devotionals, or shallow faith, this guide will help you create a Bible habit that will **reshape your mind, feed your spirit, and renew your "new man" daily.**

## 1. Daily Bible Reading is Not Optional – It's Survival

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* – Matthew 4:4

Jesus didn't say Scripture was like dessert—He said it was like **bread**. Just as your body needs daily nourishment, your spirit needs **daily truth**. If you're not feeding the "new man" with the Word, then the "old man" is gaining ground.

The reason many Christians feel spiritually weak, confused, emotional, or powerless is because they are **malnourished**. You don't grow strong by attending church once a week or catching a sermon on social media. You grow strong by **eating daily from the Word**.

The Christian who builds a consistent Bible habit isn't super-spiritual—they're simply someone who's learned that spiritual hunger can only be satisfied by Scripture.

## 2. Make It Daily – Not Occasional

*"Give us this day our daily bread."* – Matthew 6:11

There's something powerful about **daily** routines. They form rhythms that shape your thinking, strengthen your discipline, and reinforce your identity. You don't brush your teeth once a week—you do it every day. Why? Because it's a habit for health.

Spiritual health works the same way. The secret to spiritual strength isn't found in intensity—it's found in **consistency**.

- **Five minutes every day** is more powerful than 45 minutes once a week.
- A habit built over 30 days will soon feel natural.
- The Spirit works more freely when your mind is renewed regularly.

You don't have to wait for revival to feel motivated. **Read when you feel like it, and especially when you don't.** Faithfulness will eventually ignite fire.

## 3. How to Schedule Bible Time That Sticks

There's no "one-size-fits-all" plan—but successful people of God have always carved out **dedicated time** to meet with the Lord.

Here are some practical steps:

### ✓ **Choose a Time and Guard It**

- **Morning:** Best for most people. Sets the tone for the day.
- **Lunch or Breaktime:** Midday reset.
- **Evening:** A quiet time to reflect and reset.

Pick a time that works for you—and **defend it**. Set a reminder, block the calendar, and **treat it as sacred**.

### ✓ **Set a Length**

- Start with **10–15 minutes**. Gradually build.
- It's not about speed—it's about saturation.

Even **one Psalm and one Proverb** a day can feed your soul if you're focused and prayerful.

### ✓ **Create a Bible-Ready Space**

- Keep your Bible, notebook, pens, and reading plan ready.
- A clean, dedicated space reduces resistance.
- Avoid your phone unless you're using a Bible app in airplane mode.

## **4. Structure Your Bible Time**

A clear structure makes it easier to be consistent.

### ■ **Suggested Structure:**

#### **1. Start with Prayer (1–2 minutes)**

- "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." – Psalm 119:18
- Ask God to guide your reading, convict your heart, and make His Word come alive.

#### **2. Read a Passage (5–15 minutes)**

- Use a reading plan, or go book by book.
- Read **slowly**, and **out loud** if possible.
- Look for repeated words, commands, contrasts, promises.

### 3. Reflect and Write (5 minutes)

- What did God show me?
- Is there a promise to claim, sin to confess, example to follow?
- How does this apply to today?

### 4. Close in Prayer (2–3 minutes)

- Thank God for what He showed you.
- Ask for strength to obey and live it out.
- Pray Scripture back to Him.

## 5. Choose the Right Reading Plan for Your Season

Here are a few approaches depending on where you are:

### Beginner or Rebuilding

- Start in the Gospel of John or Proverbs.
- Read one chapter a day.
- Use a journal or notebook to summarize one truth.

### Growing Believer

- Read one OT and one NT chapter daily.
- Add Psalms or Proverbs as a third layer.
- Begin memorizing verses weekly.

### Deepening in Study

- Follow a one-year Bible plan.
- Study through Paul's epistles with a commentary.
- Incorporate 10–15 minutes of word studies or cross-references.

The best plan is the one **you stick to**. Don't chase complexity. Start simple and stay steady.

## 6. Journaling: The Mirror of Scripture

*“Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein... this man shall be blessed in his deed.”* – James 1:25

When you journal what you read, you:

- Engage more deeply.
- Retain what you learn.
- Clarify your thoughts.
- Track your spiritual growth.

### Suggested Journal Template:

- **Date**
- **Passage Read**
- **Key Verse**
- **What I Learned**
- **How It Applies to Me**
- **Prayer**

You don't have to write essays—just reflect and respond.

## 7. Scripture Memory: Feeding the “New Man”

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* – Colossians 3:16

*“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge...”* – Colossians 3:10

Your new man in Christ is **fed and renewed** by the **Word of God**.

Memorizing Scripture isn't just for kids—it's essential spiritual armor.

### Start With:

- Romans 12:1–2

- Galatians 2:20
- Psalm 119:11
- Ephesians 6:10–17
- Proverbs 3:5–6


 **Memorization Tips:**

- Use index cards or apps (like BibleMemory, Verses, or Fighter Verses).
- Recite during daily tasks—driving, walking, waiting.
- Repeat before sleep and upon waking.


Memorized Scripture becomes your internal defense system. When temptation comes, you don't need to find your Bible—you already **have your sword in hand**.

## 8. Overcoming the Common Obstacles


 **“I don't have time.”**

 Make time. Wake up earlier. Cut 10 minutes from entertainment. You have time for what you prioritize.


 **“I don't understand it.”**

 You're not alone. Start with simple books. Use a good study Bible (KJV with notes). Ask questions. God honors the seeker.

 **“I forget to do it.”**

 Set a recurring alarm. Stack the habit with another (e.g., right after coffee or brushing your teeth).

 **“I miss a day and give up.”**

 God is not grading you. Pick up where you left off. One missed day isn't failure—it's life. Just get back to the table.

## 9. Teach Others What You're Learning

*“And the things that thou hast heard of me... the same commit thou to faithful men...”* – 2 Timothy 2:2

The best way to lock in what you’re learning is to **share it**:

- Teach your children at the dinner table.
- Share a verse with a friend or online.
- Lead a small group or weekly verse share.

Discipleship isn’t about expertise—it’s about **passing down truth** that’s become alive to you.

You don’t need to be a pastor to teach the Bible—you just need to be a **student who’s listening**.

## **10. Let the Word Dwell Richly in You**

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* – Colossians 3:16

Not just occasionally. Not just lightly. **Richly.**

Let it fill your mind, shape your speech, guide your decisions, and strengthen your faith. Let it be the voice that speaks louder than fear, doubt, temptation, or culture.

The Word of God isn’t just your devotional—it’s your **daily food, armor, compass, and inheritance**.

## **Conclusion: Your Bible is a Sword—Don’t Leave it Sheathed**

Hearing from God daily is not about checking boxes. It’s about **feeding your faith, renewing your mind, and fellowshiping with your Savior**.

You’re not chasing a feeling. You’re building a **fortress of truth** around your soul.

Start small. Stay consistent. And watch your spiritual life go from weak to **warrior-like**.

Pick up your Bible.

Open your ears.

And hear from the God who still speaks—**every day**, to those who will listen.

## **4 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Studying vs. Skimming: How to Go Deep in God’s Word**

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15*

### **Introduction: From Surface to Substance**

Many believers treat the Bible like a museum—glancing at the exhibits, admiring the surface, and then moving on. They skim familiar verses, underline a few comforting promises, and close the book satisfied that they’ve “read their Bible today.” But **skimming Scripture is not the same as studying it.**

The command in 2 Timothy 2:15 isn’t to skim—it’s to **study**. Not to casually browse, but to **dig, examine, and handle the Word like a craftsman.** In this fourth installment of *The Christian and the Word of God* series, we draw a clear line between shallow interaction and deep engagement with the Bible.

This essay will walk you through the methods of going deeper—verse-by-verse, word-by-word, theme-by-theme. We’ll explore **inductive Bible study, word studies, topical explorations,** and how to become a **workman,** not a tourist, when it comes to God’s Word.

### **1. Why Skimming Isn’t Enough**

Skimming Scripture is like licking the outside of a jar of honey—you never get to the substance that nourishes. You might feel spiritual for having “read the Word,” but if you don’t understand it, remember it, or apply it, you are still **spiritually malnourished.**

*“Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures...” – Matthew 22:29*

Even Jesus rebuked the religious elite—not because they didn’t read, but because they didn’t **understand.**

Casual reading can provide inspiration. But **only study produces transformation.**

Skimming is:

- Surface-level.
- Emotion-driven.
- Passive.

Studying is:

- Deep.
- Truth-driven.
- Active.

You don't need a seminary degree to study the Bible—you need **commitment, curiosity, and a desire to know God more.**

## 2. The Command to Study: A Workman Mentality

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed...”* –  
2 Timothy 2:15

Paul tells Timothy to be a **workman**. That word means laborer—someone who sweats, focuses, and builds something meaningful.

We are not called to be Bible collectors, trivia champions, or sermon junkies. We are called to be **students of truth.**

A workman:

- Learns how to handle the tools (study methods).
- Builds carefully and correctly (right doctrine).
- Tests everything against the blueprint (Scripture).
- Finishes the job with integrity (sound application).

A tourist, by contrast, only takes snapshots and leaves unchanged.

If you want to be approved by God, become a **worker in the Word**, not a **wanderer with opinions.**

## 3. Inductive Bible Study – Letting the Text Speak

Inductive Bible study means you start **with the text itself**, rather than imposing your thoughts onto it. You observe what it says, interpret what it means, and apply what it teaches.

 **3 Steps of Inductive Bible Study:**

## 1. Observation – What Does It Say?

This is the most ignored step. Too many people jump to “what it means for me” without knowing what it actually says.

### Ask:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is being addressed?
- What is the setting?
- Are there repeated words?
- What is the flow of thought?
- What contrasts or commands are present?

**Example:** In John 3:16, you would notice:

- God is the subject.
- Love is the motive.
- The world is the object.
- Gave is the action.
- Belief is the condition.
- Everlasting life is the result.

Observation is like being a detective—nothing is random. Every word, phrase, and punctuation has purpose.

## 2. Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

Now that you’ve observed, you interpret.

### Ask:

- What does this mean to the original audience?
- What is the doctrinal truth?
- Are there cross-references?

- Is this literal, figurative, or symbolic?
- Is this truth for all time or for a specific dispensation?

Let the **Bible interpret the Bible**. Compare Scripture with Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Always interpret a verse **in context**—not just of the chapter, but of the entire Bible narrative.

### 3. Application – How Does This Change Me?

Finally, apply what you've learned.

#### Ask:

- What should I do in light of this truth?
- Is there sin to confess?
- A promise to claim?
- A command to obey?
- A habit to start or stop?

Application makes the Bible **personal and powerful**.

But **never skip straight to application** without understanding context. Otherwise, you'll twist Scripture into something God never said.

### 4. Verse-by-Verse Study – The Gold Standard

Verse-by-verse study is the backbone of sound doctrine and personal growth. It helps you digest **entire books**, not just fragments.

#### How to Start:

- Choose a book (start with John, James, Ephesians, or Proverbs).
- Read through the chapter.
- Study each verse, asking:
  - What does this verse reveal about God?
  - What does it reveal about me?

- Are there repeated ideas?

### **Tools to Use:**

- KJV Bible
- Strong's Concordance
- Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (cross-references)
- Blue Letter Bible (for Greek/Hebrew lookup)
- Notebook for insights and questions

Over time, verse-by-verse study creates **a library of understanding in your soul**. You'll begin connecting ideas across the Bible with clarity and depth.

## **5. Word Studies – Mining Deep Truth**

Words matter. God chose every word in the Bible deliberately.

*“Every word of God is pure...”* – Proverbs 30:5

Doing a **word study** means exploring the meaning, usage, and richness of a specific word throughout Scripture.

### **How to Do a Word Study:**

- 1. Choose a Word:**  
Example: “grace,” “redeem,” “justify,” “repent.”
- 2. Use a Concordance:**  
Look up every use of that word in Scripture.
- 3. Define It:**  
Use Strong's definitions to find the original Hebrew or Greek meaning.
- 4. Study It in Context:**  
Note how it's used in different passages. Compare usage across testaments.
- 5. Apply the Insight:**  
Ask, “How does understanding this word shape my view of God or myself?”

**Example:** Studying “sanctification” will lead you to learn about initial, progressive, and ultimate sanctification.

Word studies give your theology depth and your worship **precision**.

## 6. Topical Study – Following a Thread Through Scripture

Topical studies trace a theme or doctrine across multiple books of the Bible. This is useful for understanding God’s heart on a particular issue.

### **How to Do a Topical Study:**

1. **Pick a Theme or Doctrine:**

Examples: “prayer,” “faith,” “end times,” “Holy Spirit,” “wisdom,” “marriage,” “forgiveness.”

2. **Gather Passages:**

Use a concordance or topical Bible (like Nave’s or Thompson Chain).

3. **Group the Verses:**

Organize by subtopics (e.g., Prayer in the OT vs. NT, private prayer vs. corporate).

4. **Observe Patterns:**

Does God’s approach change across covenants? Is it consistently emphasized?

5. **Summarize Findings:**

Write out your conclusions and how they affect your faith or behavior.

Topical study helps you **synthesize Scripture** and develop a biblical worldview.

## 7. The Dangers of Shallow Reading

When Christians rely on devotionals, verse-of-the-day apps, or Instagram sermons without real study, they risk the following:

- **Mishandling doctrine**
- **Becoming prey to false teachers**
- **Twisting verses to fit opinions**
- **Living emotionally instead of biblically**

Paul warned of this:

*“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”* – Ephesians 4:14

You'll never spot counterfeit theology unless you've studied the **real thing deeply**.

## 8. Study Requires Time, Not Talent

You don't need to be a scholar.

You just need to:

- Set aside time.
- Get the right tools.
- Ask good questions.
- Be patient.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Jesus said:

*“Seek, and ye shall find...”* – Matthew 7:7

Studying the Bible is like mining for gold. It takes effort—but every nugget is priceless.

## 9. Study in Community – Iron Sharpens Iron

*“In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”* – Proverbs 11:14

While personal study is essential, studying with others adds dimension. Join a group that doesn't just read but **dissects the Word**.

Ask questions like:

- What does this verse really mean?
- How does this line up with the rest of Scripture?
- What's the historical context?
- What is Paul, Moses, or Jesus addressing here?

Spiritual maturity grows faster in **mutual sharpening** environments.

## 10. Apply What You Learn – Don't Just File It

Knowledge without application becomes pride.

*“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...”* – James 1:22

After you study:

- Write a 1–2 sentence summary of what you learned.
- Note one action to take.
- Pray that truth into your life.

**Example:** If you study Psalm 1 and learn about delighting in the law of the Lord, commit to memorizing one verse this week.

Learning the Bible should always lead to **living the Bible**.

### **Conclusion: Stop Skimming – Start Studying**

You can’t fight spiritual battles with vague inspiration. You need precision. You need depth. You need the **sword of the Spirit sharpened and in hand**.

The shallow Christian lives off crumbs. The serious Christian **feasts at the table** of God’s Word.

Don’t settle for devotions that never dig deeper. Don’t borrow your faith from others. Become a student, a workman, a soldier with Scripture engraved on your heart.

*“Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein... this man shall be blessed in his deed.”* – James 1:25

Study is the path to strength. It’s how you grow into a soldier who knows how to stand, speak, and strike with truth.

So open your Bible—not to skim—but to **mine, meditate, and marvel**.

### **5 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Wolves with Bibles: How False Teachers Twist Scripture**

*“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” – 2 Corinthians 11:13–14*

## **Introduction: The Devil Comes with a Bible**

If Satan knocked on your door dressed in red with horns, a pitchfork, and a growl, you'd know to run. But if he comes dressed in a suit, smiling, holding a Bible, and quoting Jesus—most people pull up a seat and take notes.

The most dangerous threat to the Church is not outside persecution, but **inside deception**. Jesus warned that false prophets would arise—not from brothels or bars—but **from behind pulpits and podcast mics**, dressed in sheep's clothing, using **Scripture as a weapon to mislead**.

This essay exposes the methods, motives, and movements of wolves who twist Scripture. From cult leaders to charismatic manipulators, from prosperity preachers to New Apostolic Reformation “apostles,” the common thread is always the same: **using the Bible to support their agenda, not God's truth**.

We will examine:

- How eisegesis, cherry-picking, and imbalance twist Scripture.
- Examples from modern false teachers.
- How to discern truth from error.

This is not just an exposé—it's a call to **spiritual vigilance**. Because Satan doesn't destroy the Church by removing the Bible—he destroys it by **redefining it**.

### **1. False Teachers Use the Right Book, the Wrong Way**

False teachers don't often preach from the Quran or cultic manuals—they **preach from the Bible**. But what they do with the Bible is what makes them dangerous.

They quote Scripture:

- Out of context.
- Selectively.
- Emotionally.
- With personal agenda.

*“They that are unlearned and unstable wrest... the scriptures, unto their own destruction.”* –  
2 Peter 3:16

That word "wrest" means to **twist violently**, like distorting metal into something unrecognizable. That’s what wolves do. They mangle truth into a lie.

Even Satan used Scripture against Jesus:

*“If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written...”* – Matthew 4:6

Yes, Satan quoted the Bible—but **he left out the context**. He removed the divine purpose and misapplied the promise. False teachers follow that exact playbook.

## 2. Eisegesis: Reading Into Scripture Instead of Out of It

**Eisegesis** is the act of inserting your own ideas, culture, or opinions **into** the text. It’s the opposite of **exegesis**, which seeks to draw meaning **from** the text.

Examples of eisegesis:

- Saying, “God told me this verse means...” instead of asking what it **actually meant** to the original audience.
- Reading modern American politics into ancient biblical prophecy.
- Making the Bible about “you” instead of about **Christ**.

False teachers love eisegesis because it makes Scripture **flexible, subjective, and profitable**.

*“Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* – Judges 21:25

When people no longer seek what God *said*, they become easy prey for wolves who tell them what they *want* to hear.

## 3. Cherry-Picking Scripture: Ignoring the Full Counsel of God

*“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”* – Acts 20:27

False teachers rarely quote difficult or convicting verses. They cherry-pick soft, uplifting ones—detached from context—to build an entire theology of comfort, wealth, or tolerance.

 **Examples of Cherry-Picking:**

- **Jeremiah 29:11** (“I know the plans I have for you...”)
  - Misused to promise success to everyone.
  - Ignored: it was written to Israel in captivity, with suffering still ahead.
- **Matthew 7:1** (“Judge not...”)
  - Used to silence correction.
  - Ignored: Jesus goes on to say, “Judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24).
- **3 John 1:2** (“I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper...”)
  - Twisted into prosperity doctrine.
  - Ignored: It’s a greeting, not a doctrinal promise.

False teachers quote enough Bible to sound legitimate—but never enough to **convict**. They sell a half-truth that functions as a whole lie.

#### 4. Doctrinal Imbalance: A Favorite Tool of Wolves

The Bible is full of balance:

- Grace **and** truth.
- Mercy **and** judgment.
- Love **and** holiness.

False teachers grab **one theme** and over-inflate it—creating a lopsided, distorted gospel.

#### Examples of Imbalance:

- **All grace, no repentance:**  
 “God loves you just as you are. Don’t worry about changing.”  
 → They omit Christ’s command: “Repent, and believe the gospel.”
- **All faith, no suffering:**  
 “If you just have enough faith, you’ll never be sick or broke.”  
 → Ignored: Paul’s thorn, Job’s trials, and Jesus’ suffering.
- **All Spirit, no Scripture:**  
 “The Holy Spirit gave me a new revelation...”  
 → Ignored: “Try the spirits whether they are of God.” – 1 John 4:1

Balance requires **Bible over emotion, doctrine over dreams, and context over charisma.**

## 5. Today's Wolves – Real Examples of False Teachers

### Joel Osteen – The Gospel of Self-Esteem

- Preaches motivational talks with light biblical dressing.
- Avoids sin, judgment, and hell.
- His book *Your Best Life Now* contradicts Jesus' call to take up your cross.

### Kenneth Copeland – The God-Made-Me-a-God Heresy

- Teaches Word of Faith doctrine.
- Claims Christians are “little gods.”
- Declares that faith is a force that manipulates God.

### Bill Johnson (Bethel Church) – The Signs-and-Wonders Trap

- Elevates experience over doctrine.
- Teaches Jesus “laid aside divinity” and did miracles only as a man.
- Leads youth into grave-soaking and glory clouds—extra-biblical practices.

### Todd White – False Healings and Twisted Grace

- Known for “leg-lengthening” street tricks.
- Avoids repentance messages until rebuked publicly.
- Preaches a hyper-grace message with zero accountability.

### Mike Bickle and the NAR (New Apostolic Reformation)

- Pushes modern-day apostles and prophets.
- Claims to receive direct, authoritative revelation from God.
- Moves believers away from the **written Word** and into mystical experiences.

These are not differences over minor doctrine—these are **soul-damaging errors**, built on Scripture **twisted, ignored, or weaponized**.

## 6. How Wolves Groom Their Followers

Wolves don't just twist Scripture—they manipulate **emotion**, **community**, and **loyalty** to entrench their deception.

They:

- Claim exclusive spiritual insight: “God told me what’s next.”
- Demonize disagreement: “Touch not the Lord’s anointed.”
- Manufacture miracles: staged healings, fake signs.
- Use flattery and charisma: build a brand, not a Bible base.
- Weaponize Scripture: silence critics with verses misapplied.

They prey on:

- The undiscerning.
- The emotionally desperate.
- The biblically illiterate.

This is why Paul cried night and day warning the church (Acts 20:31). The greatest enemy of truth is often the **one who quotes it most confidently—without rightly dividing it.**

## 7. How to Spot a False Teacher Biblically

### ✓ 1. They Add to or Subtract from Scripture

*“Ye shall not add unto the word... neither shall ye diminish ought from it.”* – Deuteronomy 4:2

False teachers constantly say, “God gave me a new word,” and ignore the old one.

### ✓ 2. They Deny Foundational Doctrines

*“But there were false prophets also among the people... even denying the Lord that bought them...”* – 2 Peter 2:1

Examples:

- Denying the virgin birth, deity of Christ, or bodily resurrection.

- Replacing repentance with “positive declarations.”

### ✓ 3. They Exploit for Gain

*“Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”* – 2 Peter 2:3

If you must “sow a seed” to get healed or “give \$777” for a prophetic word—it’s not a ministry. It’s a **scam**.

### ✓ 4. They Promote Themselves

*“They love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats...”* – Matthew 23:6

They brand their names bigger than Jesus. Their platforms become personality cults.

### ✓ 5. They Are Doctrinally Vague

*“They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.”* – 1 John 4:5

False teachers use Christian-sounding words but rarely define them biblically. “Faith,” “blessing,” “anointing”—all are used **without doctrine**.

## 8. How to Guard Yourself and Others

### 1. Know the Real Thing

Study the Bible deeply. You won’t spot a fake unless you know the original intimately.

### 2. Test All Teaching

*“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”* – 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Every sermon, every quote, every post—**test it by the Word rightly divided**.

### 3. Refuse to Be Intimidated

You are allowed—and commanded—to **judge teaching**.

*“Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.”* – 1 Corinthians 14:29

Truth doesn't mind examination. Only lies fear questions.

#### 4. Teach Others

Warn those you love. Teach your children and disciples how to **spot twisting of Scripture**.

#### 9. Don't Just Avoid Wolves—Expose Them

*“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”* – Ephesians 5:11

Some say, “Just focus on Jesus—don't call out names.” But Paul **named names** (2 Timothy 2:17–18). Jesus called Herod a fox. John called Diotrephes out in 3 John.

Exposing wolves is not hateful—it's **protective love**.

When a wolf enters the fold, the shepherd doesn't “just preach truth”—he **drives the wolf out**.

#### 10. The True Shepherd Points You to Christ and Scripture

In contrast to wolves, true teachers:

- Feed the sheep, not themselves.
- Open the Bible, not manipulate it.
- Lead you to Scripture, not “spiritual experiences.”
- Exalt Christ, not themselves.
- Live lives of integrity and humility.

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* – John 10:27

Sheep who know the Shepherd's voice **will not follow a stranger**.

#### Conclusion: Pick Up Your Sword and Be Alert

The Bible is a weapon—but wolves know how to counterfeit it.

They'll use the King James, quote Scripture fluently, and even preach Jesus.

But if their gospel is man-centered, money-driven, miracle-fabricated, or morally hollow—**you're not dealing with a shepherd. You're looking at a wolf.**

The solution isn't fear.

It's **discernment**.

It's **study**.

It's standing in the Word so solidly that no lie can shake you.

*“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” – Matthew 7:15*

They're here.

But so is your Bible.

Pick it up.

Read it deeply.

Divide it rightly.

And protect the flock boldly.

## **6 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – The Battle for the Bible: Why Satan Attacks God's Word**

*“Yea, hath God said...?” – Genesis 3:1*

*“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...” – Hebrews 4:12*

### **Introduction: Satan Doesn't Fear the Church—He Fears the Word**

It's one thing to attack the Church. It's another to infiltrate it. But Satan's most effective tactic has always been **to undermine confidence in the Word of God itself**.

He doesn't need to burn Bibles to win. He just needs you to **doubt them, neglect them, or replace them**.

From Genesis to Revelation, the very first and most consistent spiritual attack in human history has centered on this chilling phrase:

*“Yea, hath God said?”*

This sixth essay in *The Christian and the Word of God* series exposes the **spiritual war over Scripture**. We will trace Satan's assault on the Bible from the Garden of Eden, through

religious suppression, and into the modern-day chaos of corrupted texts, diluted translations, and doctrinal erosion.

At the heart of every spiritual downfall lies this: **The Sword is missing, dulled, or replaced.**

This is the story of the war for the Word—and why every believer must **know what God said, believe it fully, and defend it boldly.**

## 1. The First Attack: “Yea, Hath God Said?”

*“Now the serpent was more subtil... and he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said...?”* – Genesis 3:1

Satan’s very first recorded words in Scripture were aimed directly at **God’s words.**

He didn’t begin with denial—he began with **doubt:**

- “Did God really say that?”
- “Are you sure you understood Him correctly?”
- “Maybe He meant something different.”
- “Maybe He’s withholding something.”

Once doubt was introduced, deception followed:

*“Ye shall not surely die...”* – Genesis 3:4

Then came redefinition:

*“Ye shall be as gods...”* – Genesis 3:5

It always starts this way:

- Undermine the **authority** of God’s Word.
- Question the **accuracy** of God’s Word.
- Replace the **meaning** of God’s Word.

Satan doesn’t fear churches. He fears **churches with the Sword drawn.**

## 2. The Bible Is a Weapon – And Satan Knows It

*“Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* – Ephesians 6:17

The Bible is not a book of good morals. It is a **spiritual weapon**. It:

- Pierces the heart (Hebrews 4:12)
- Resists the devil (James 4:7)
- Builds faith (Romans 10:17)
- Cleanses the mind (John 17:17)

No wonder Satan targets it.

Throughout history, Satan has used:

- **Religious suppression**
- **Government bans**
- **Textual corruption**
- **Academic skepticism**
- **Modern translation dilution**
- **Cultural ridicule**

To silence, twist, or bury the Word of God.

Every revival in history was birthed by the Bible. And every spiritual collapse began when the Bible was **muzzled, altered, or ignored**.

### **3. Roman Catholic Suppression: Keeping the Sword from the People**

One of the darkest chapters in Church history was the **systematic suppression of the Bible** by the Roman Catholic Church.

For centuries:

- The Bible was locked in **Latin (the Vulgate)**—a language the common man couldn't read.
- It was forbidden for the average Christian to **own or translate** Scripture.
- Men like **William Tyndale**, who translated the Bible into English, were hunted and burned alive.

- The **Council of Toulouse (1229)** forbade laymen from possessing a Bible.
- **The Inquisition** punished those who studied or distributed biblical texts.

Why? Because the Roman Church believed **only priests** could interpret Scripture. The people were told to trust tradition over text, and the pope over the prophets.

This wasn't just censorship—it was spiritual tyranny. And it was orchestrated by the same serpent who whispered in Eden.

Satan's goal? **Remove the Sword from the people.**

#### 4. Modern Bible Corruption: The Silent Subtraction

Satan learned he couldn't stop the Bible—so he found a better strategy: **dilute it.**

In the modern era, the attack shifted from banning the Bible to **replacing it subtly with confusing, altered, watered-down versions.**

*“We are not as many, which corrupt the word of God...”* – 2 Corinthians 2:17

Today, there are **hundreds of English Bible versions**, many based on **corrupt manuscripts** like the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus, which:

- Omit key doctrines.
- Remove or alter thousands of words.
- Cast doubt on Christ's deity, blood, and resurrection.

#### Examples of Critical Changes:

- **KJV: “In whom we have redemption through his blood...”** – Ephesians 1:7  
 👉 Many modern versions **remove “through his blood.”**
- **KJV: “God was manifest in the flesh...”** – 1 Timothy 3:16  
 👉 Modern versions change “God” to **“He” or “who”**.
- **KJV: “Lucifer”** – Isaiah 14:12  
 👉 Many versions change it to “morning star,” confusing the identity of Satan with Christ (Revelation 22:16).
- **KJV: “Study to shew thyself approved...”** – 2 Timothy 2:15  
 👉 Many versions replace “study” with “do your best” or remove the command entirely.

Why do these changes matter? Because **truth is precise**, and every change—even subtle—**weakens the Sword**.

## 5. Textual Confusion Weakens the Church

When believers don't know **which Bible to trust**, they stop trusting any Bible at all. This is Satan's long game: **create chaos**, not clarity.

Multiple versions lead to:

- Endless debates over wording.
- Distrust in final authority.
- Pastors saying, "A better rendering is..." more than "Thus saith the Lord."
- Churches dependent on scholars rather than Scripture.

A confused army is a powerless army. If your Sword is dull, crooked, or missing, you cannot fight.

The Church today is losing battles because she no longer carries a **standardized, trusted, preserved Sword**.

## 6. Jesus and the Apostles Trusted a Perfect Bible

*"It is written..."* – Jesus (repeatedly in Matthew 4)

When tempted by Satan, Jesus didn't speak in tongues, sing worship songs, or call an apostolic intercessor. He quoted **Scripture—precisely**.

He believed in:

- A specific Bible.
- Inerrant words.
- Final authority.

*"The Scripture cannot be broken."* – John 10:35

So did Paul:

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* – 2 Timothy 3:16

*"It is written"* was his constant refrain.

Why would God inspire Scripture but not preserve it?

He didn't just **breathe it out**—He **kept it pure forever** (Psalm 12:6–7).

Satan's lie today? "We don't have the original manuscripts, so nothing is final."

God's truth? "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*" –

Matthew 24:35

## 7. The King James Bible: Satan's Greatest Target

Since 1611, the **King James Bible** has been the most attacked, mocked, and maligned translation in the English-speaking world.

Why?

Because:

- It's based on the **Textus Receptus**, not the corrupt Alexandrian texts.
- It's **word-for-word**, not thought-for-thought.
- It uses **formal equivalency**, preserving structure and accuracy.
- It has **fruit**—revivals, missions, solid doctrine.
- It is not owned by publishers or subject to constant revision.

Satan doesn't waste time attacking powerless things. The King James Bible is hated **because it is a threat**. It is the preserved Word of God in English.

When the Church replaced it with dozens of ever-changing modern versions, she began to drift—into doctrinal softness, charismatic confusion, and cultural compromise.

## 8. Satan's Strategy Today: Distract, Divide, Dilute

### Distract:

- "You don't need deep Bible study—just listen to podcasts."
- "Why read the Bible when devotionals summarize it for you?"

### Divide:

- Pit denominations against each other over Bible versions.
- Promote endless academic debate over manuscripts.

## Dilute:

- Replace Scripture with positive affirmations.
- Elevate experience over exposition.

He doesn't need to ban Bibles anymore. He just needs believers **bored with them**.

## 9. How to Win the Battle for Your Bible

### 1. Settle the Authority Issue

Decide which Bible you believe is **God's final Word** in your language. For English speakers, that is the **King James Bible**.

You cannot fight with a sword you don't fully trust.

### 2. Build Your Life Around the Word

- Read it daily.
- Study it deeply.
- Quote it often.
- Submit to it fully.

### 3. Reject Counterfeits and Corrections

You don't need a scholar to reinterpret God. You need a **heart that believes** Him.

If your Bible needs constant correction, **who is really the authority—God or the editor?**

### 4. Teach Others Why It Matters

Equip your family, church, and disciples with the truth about Bible preservation. Show them the differences. Show them the fruit. Teach them **how Satan uses “yea, hath God said?” even now**.

## **10. Conclusion: Hold the Sword or Fall in Battle**

The Christian life is not a parade. It is a **war**. And the Sword of the Spirit is not symbolic—it is **your only offensive weapon**.

If Satan can separate you from the Bible, he can separate you from power.

*“Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” – Psalm 119:104*

This is your heritage. This is your Sword.

Do not surrender it for convenience, popularity, or scholarly praise.

Do not let culture dictate your confidence.

Do not let wolves take it from your hands.

Stand up. Pick it up. And **wield it like a soldier who knows the war is real**.

## **7 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Bible Preservation: Why the King James Bible Stands Alone**

*“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” – Psalm 12:6–7*

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” – Matthew 24:35*

*“The word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” – 1 Peter 1:25*

## **Introduction: From Inspiration to Preservation**

Most Christians believe the Bible was inspired. Fewer believe it was preserved. But the Word of God is not a historical relic—it is a living, present, unchanging authority that has not only been given, but kept.

Satan’s strategy has always involved questioning God’s words (“Yea, hath God said?”), but his modern attack is more subtle. He does not just deny Scripture—he introduces doubt about its preservation. This leads to a dangerous conclusion: that **we no longer possess the exact words of God today**.

This seventh essay in *The Christian and the Word of God* series defends the doctrine of **Bible preservation** and shows why the **King James Bible (KJV)** stands as the preserved, accurate, and trustworthy Word of God in English. We will examine the promises of Scripture, the difference between manuscript families, the nature of modern translation methods, and why the KJV is not just a traditional favorite—it is **the preserved Word of God**.

## 1. God Promised to Preserve His Word

*“The words of the Lord are pure words... Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” – Psalm 12:6–7*

Preservation is not a human project—it is a divine promise. Just as God inspired His Word (2 Timothy 3:16), He also vowed to **keep it pure and intact**.

Psalm 12 affirms:

- God’s words are **pure**—free from error.
- They are **tried**—tested and proven.
- They are **preserved forever**—not just the ideas, but the **very words**.

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” – Matthew 24:35*

Jesus emphasized that not even the **passing of the universe** would affect the permanence of His words.

*“The word of the Lord endureth for ever.” – 1 Peter 1:25*

The idea that God inspired the originals but did not preserve the copies is not biblical. God is not careless with His own speech. He is the **perfect Communicator**—and perfect communication requires both inspiration and preservation.

## 2. Inspiration Without Preservation Is Useless

It is illogical to say:

- “God gave us His exact words” (inspiration),
- but “we don’t have those words anymore” (no preservation).

If the Bible was only inspired in the original manuscripts—which no longer exist—and everything since is flawed, then we are left with **human speculation**, not divine certainty.

Imagine God giving His Word perfectly... only to lose it through centuries of scribal error, textual confusion, and translation agendas. That would make God incompetent or uninterested in protecting His truth.

But Scripture paints a different picture. Every Word of God is:

- **Tried** (Psalm 18:30)
- **Settled in heaven** (Psalm 119:89)
- **Living and active** (Hebrews 4:12)
- **Preserved for every generation** (Psalm 100:5)

God didn't just give His Word—**He kept it.**

### **3. The Battle of Manuscripts: Textus Receptus vs. Critical Text**

Most Bible translation arguments boil down to this question:

Which **manuscript family** is the preserved Word of God based on?

There are two main camps:

#### **A. The Textus Receptus (TR)**

- Basis of the King James Bible.
- Comes from the Byzantine manuscript family.
- Represented by over 5,000 manuscripts.
- Used widely in the early church and preserved by faithful scribes.
- Emphasizes continuity and agreement across time and geography.

#### **B. The Critical Text (CT)**

- Basis of most modern versions (NIV, ESV, NASB, etc.).
- Assembled in the 1800s by Westcott and Hort.
- Relies heavily on two manuscripts:
  - **Codex Vaticanus** – found in the Vatican library.

- **Codex Sinaiticus** – discovered in a trash bin at St. Catherine’s Monastery.
- These manuscripts:
  - Disagree with each other over 3,000 times in the Gospels alone.
  - Omit thousands of words, phrases, and verses.
  - Were rejected by Bible-believing churches for centuries.

**The Textus Receptus is the traditional, time-tested line.**

**The Critical Text is the newly-constructed, scholar-driven line.**

The TR was preserved by believers.

The CT was constructed by **textual critics**—many of whom denied the inerrancy of Scripture.

#### **4. What’s Missing in the Modern Bibles?**

The new versions aren’t just easier to read—they are **dangerously incomplete**. Here are just a few examples where modern versions omit or alter important truth:

##### **A. The Blood of Christ**

- **KJV:** *“In whom we have redemption through his blood...”* – Ephesians 1:7
- **NIV/ESV:** *“In whom we have redemption...”* (Blood omitted)

##### **B. The Deity of Christ**

- **KJV:** *“God was manifest in the flesh...”* – 1 Timothy 3:16
- **NIV/ESV:** *“He appeared in a body”* or *“who was manifested...”* (God removed)

##### **C. The Trinity**

- **KJV:** *“There are three that bear record in heaven...”* – 1 John 5:7
- **Most modern versions omit this verse entirely**

##### **D. Lucifer’s Identity**

- **KJV:** *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer...”* – Isaiah 14:12
- **NIV/ESV:** *“O morning star...”* (Christ is also called Morning Star in Revelation)

##### **E. Jesus’ Full Statement on Fasting**

- **KJV:** *“This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”* – Matthew 17:21
- **NIV/ESV:** Verse omitted

These are not just textual differences—they are **theological amputations**.

## 5. The King James Bible: Preserved and Proven

The King James Bible stands apart—not because of tradition or nostalgia—but because it represents a **preserved text**, a **word-for-word translation philosophy**, and a **time-tested legacy of fruitfulness**.

### Why the KJV Stands Alone:

- **It’s based on the Textus Receptus**, which aligns with the vast majority of manuscripts.
- **It uses formal equivalence**—translating word-for-word, not thought-for-thought.
- **It maintains theological precision**—keeping “propitiation,” “justification,” and “imputed” where modern versions simplify or remove.
- **It has stood the test of time**—over 400 years of revival, preaching, and missionary work.
- **It’s not subject to constant revision**—unlike modern Bibles that change every few years to satisfy publishers.

The KJV translators were not trying to “update the Bible.” They were **trying to preserve and transmit the Word accurately**—and they succeeded, with God’s help.

## 6. Answering Common Objections to the KJV

### Objection 1: “The KJV is too hard to read.”

Answer: Hard doesn’t mean wrong. The KJV’s vocabulary is at a 5th-grade reading level. The difficulty is often spiritual, not grammatical.

### Objection 2: “We need the originals to really understand the Bible.”

Answer: No one has the originals. But preservation means God kept His words intact through faithful copies and translations. Jesus and the apostles quoted from copies—and called them “Scripture.”

### **Objection 3: “Language has changed—we need modern versions.”**

Answer: Language evolves, but truth doesn't. The issue isn't modernization—it's **accuracy and preservation**. The KJV can be studied, taught, and explained without compromise.

### **Objection 4: “The KJV translators weren't perfect.”**

Answer: God has always used imperfect men to do perfect work. Inspiration rests with God, not the translator.

## **7. Why It Matters: Authority, Not Preference**

The KJV is not about personal taste—it's about **final authority**.

If there are hundreds of Bibles, and all say different things, then **which one is God's Word?**

*“For God is not the author of confusion...”* – 1 Corinthians 14:33

God promised to preserve His Word. If the Bible is **our final authority**, we must know where it resides. The King James Bible is not “a good version among many.” It is the **preserved, purified Word of God for English speakers**.

## **8. The Fruit of the KJV: Revival, Preaching, and Doctrine**

Look at the results of the King James Bible:

- The greatest revivals in history used it.
- Great men of God (Spurgeon, Moody, Edwards, Finney, Ryle) preached from it.
- It fueled missionary expansion and Bible literacy.
- It laid the foundation for doctrinal teaching, seminary training, and discipleship.

By contrast, the explosion of modern versions has produced:

- Less conviction.
- More confusion.
- A weakened pulpit.
- A distracted Church.

*“Ye shall know them by their fruits...”* – Matthew 7:16

The fruit of the KJV is undeniable. It is not a relic—it is a **reliable weapon still sharp today**.

## 9. What's at Stake: The Sword in Your Hand

*“The sword of the Spirit... is the word of God.”* – Ephesians 6:17

The devil does not mind if you go to church, read devotions, or quote partial verses—so long as your Sword is dull or missing.

He fears a Christian who knows:

- **What God said**
- **Where He said it**
- **Why He preserved it**
- **And how to wield it**

A believer without a solid Bible is like a soldier without a weapon. The battle is real. The lies are subtle. And the only thing standing between you and deception is a **sharpened Sword—pure, preserved, and powerful**.

## 10. Conclusion: Settled in Heaven—Trusted on Earth

*“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”* – Psalm 119:89

God's Word is not floating. It's settled.

The question is—**is it settled in your heart?**

- Not all Bibles say the same thing.
- Not all translations are equal.
- Not all texts are trustworthy.

But **God did not leave His Church swordless**. He preserved His Word, purified it, and handed it to generations who believed it, preached it, and died for it.

Now it's your turn.

Hold it.

Read it.

Defend it.

Believe it.

**And never put it down.**

## **8 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Word-Filled or World-Filled? Guarding Your Mind with Scripture**

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*  
*– Romans 12:2*

*“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” – Psalm 119:11*

### **Introduction: Your Mind Is a Battlefield**

There is a war for your thoughts. Every day, competing voices battle for space in your head—advertisers, news media, influencers, music, movies, opinions, distractions, fears, and doubts. What you allow into your mind determines your direction, your peace, your strength, and your discernment.

The Bible does not merely offer inspiration for the mind—it offers **protection, renewal, and power**. The Word of God is not just a moral compass. It is a **sanctifying, mind-shaping force** that separates you from the world’s system and conforms you to Christ.

This eighth essay in *The Christian and the Word of God* series asks a piercing question: **Are you Word-filled or world-filled?**

It explores the necessity of guarding your mind through biblical saturation, explains the effects of worldly influence, and provides a path for mental sanctification through the disciplined intake of Scripture.

### **1. The Renewing of the Mind: A Biblical Command**

*“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”* –  
*Romans 12:2*

The command is twofold:

1. **Reject conformity** to the world.
2. **Pursue transformation** through renewal.

Your mind is not neutral. It will either be:

- **Conformed** to the world's mold,
- or **Transformed** by God's truth.

There is no third category.

You don't drift into sanctification—you renew your mind intentionally. Paul uses the Greek word *anakainōsis*, which means a **complete renovation**. This is not a fresh coat of paint. It is a total spiritual remodeling.

## 2. The Word Is the Agent of Renewal

*“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” – John 17:17*

You cannot renew your mind apart from the Word. Psychology might help manage thoughts, but only Scripture **transforms** them.

*“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” – Psalm 119:11*

The Word of God:

- **Cleanses** our thoughts (Ephesians 5:26).
- **Strengthens** our convictions (Psalm 119:105).
- **Discerns** our intentions (Hebrews 4:12).
- **Establishes** our peace (Isaiah 26:3).

It is not just information. It is **internal renovation**. Every time you read, meditate, or memorize Scripture, you are aligning your thoughts with the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

## 3. The Mind of Christ: Our Calling

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 2:5*

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?

- **Humility** in service.
- **Obedience** to the Father.
- **Discernment** in temptation.

- **Focus** on eternal things.
- **Resilience** in suffering.

Jesus, when tempted, responded: *“It is written...”*

His defense was not emotion—it was the Word.

To walk in spiritual victory, you must think like your Savior. But you can’t think like Him if your mind is shaped more by Netflix than by Nehemiah, more by Twitter than by Titus.

#### 4. The Effects of Worldly Media on the Mind

*“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” – Colossians 3:2*

The modern believer is often mentally exhausted, emotionally reactive, spiritually confused—and the reason is simple: **we consume more world than Word.**

What you consistently watch, hear, and absorb becomes your **mental diet**. And just like food, not all content is nourishing. Some of it is **poison**, even if it looks entertaining.

##### How Worldly Media Affects the Mind:

- **News cycles** generate fear, outrage, and cynicism.
- **Movies and TV** normalize immorality, sensuality, and rebellion.
- **Social media** fuels comparison, discontentment, and vanity.
- **Music** often promotes lust, ego, and revenge.
- **Podcasts** can subtly elevate worldly philosophies above Scripture.

You cannot renew your mind while feeding it the filth of the world. Garbage in, garbage out.

The Psalmist said:

*“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...” – Psalm 101:3*

Today’s Christian must make that verse a daily resolution.

#### 5. The Danger of Passive Consumption

What makes the influence of worldly media so dangerous is not just its content—but its **passivity**. People consume media:

- Without thinking,
- Without filtering,
- Without challenge.

This builds mental patterns that are **subconscious, habitual, and carnal**.

*“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” – Romans 8:6*

If you feel anxious, angry, worldly, or spiritually dry—it may not be an attack. It may be the **result of what you’ve been feeding your mind**.

The spiritual man trains his thoughts. The carnal man lets his thoughts be trained by the culture.

## 6. The Power of a Word-Filled Mind

When your mind is filled with Scripture, you are:

- **Quick to discern** truth from error.
- **Resistant to temptation** because truth is rehearsed.
- **Peaceful in trials** because God’s promises are close.
- **Bold in witness** because truth overflows naturally.
- **Stable in doctrine** because you know where you stand.

*“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” – Psalm 119:165*

A Word-filled mind is not easily shaken. It is guarded like a fortress, fueled like a fire, and focused like an archer’s aim.

## 7. How to Fill Your Mind with the Word Daily

To be Word-filled, you must **discipline your intake**.

### Daily Practices:

#### 1. Read the Bible with Intent

- Not just for information, but transformation.
- Highlight verses that speak to current struggles.
- Journal short insights.

## 2. Memorize Verses

- Choose 1–2 verses a week.
- Post them in visible places.
- Recite them aloud during tasks.

## 3. Meditate on Scripture

- Ruminates on one phrase or passage throughout the day.
- Turn it into a prayer.
- Ask: “What does this show me about God, me, and today?”

## 4. Speak the Word

- Share what you're learning.
- Text verses to friends.
- Teach them to your children or spouse.

## 5. Replace Media Time with Word Time

- Swap 15 minutes of scrolling for Psalm reading.
- Listen to audio Bible while driving.
- Replace secular music with Scripture-rich songs or hymns.

## 8. The Practice of Mental Sanctification

*“Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” – 2 Corinthians 10:5*

You are commanded not just to read Scripture—but to **capture your thoughts** and bring them into submission to Christ.

### Steps to Mental Sanctification:

#### A. Identify the Lie

- Is this thought rooted in truth or fear?

- Does it agree with God’s Word?

### **B. Replace It with Truth**

- Quote Scripture that counters the lie.
- Memorize that verse until it’s instinctive.

### **C. Refuse to Meditate on Lies**

- Stop rehearsing worry, lust, or comparison.
- Refuse to entertain unbiblical narratives.

### **D. Pray Scripture Back to God**

- Use verses as prayer fuel.
- This plants truth deeper and activates faith.

This isn’t legalism. It’s **mental hygiene**. The believer must discipline the mind as an act of worship.

## **9. Raising a Standard in a World-Filled Generation**

*“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” – Isaiah 59:19*

Today’s Church is saturated with emotion, entertainment, and compromise—but weak in doctrine, purity, and discernment. Why?

Because we have lowered the standard. The mind is no longer a battleground—it’s a playground.

We must raise the standard again:

- Preach the Word with clarity and conviction.
- Train believers to memorize, meditate, and defend Scripture.
- Teach young people how to guard their eyes, ears, and thoughts.
- Encourage families to establish Word-centered media boundaries.

A Word-filled believer is dangerous to hell’s agenda. He walks in light, sees through lies, and cannot be bought or broken.

## 10. Conclusion: You Become What You Meditate On

*“But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” – Psalm 1:2*

What fills your mind shapes your:

- Desires
- Decisions
- Emotions
- Worship
- Witness

The choice is simple.

You are either **Word-filled or world-filled.**

You are either being shaped by **Scripture or screen time.**

You are either walking with **the mind of Christ**, or you’re slowly conforming to a world that hates Him.

So guard your mind.

Saturate it in the Word.

Memorize it. Meditate on it. Pray it.

And when the world presses in—you won’t bend. You’ll stand.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” – Colossians 3:16*

Let it dwell. Let it rule. Let it transform.

## **9 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Feeding the Flock: Teaching and Sharing God's Word Faithfully**

*“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof... being ensamples to the flock.” – 1 Peter 5:2–3*

*“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” – 2 Timothy 4:2*

## **Introduction: Every Believer Feeds Someone**

Every Christian is a feeder. Whether you realize it or not, someone is looking to you for spiritual nourishment—your children, your spouse, your friends, your small group, your social media followers. The question is not **if** you are feeding others—it’s **what** you are feeding them.

The Word of God is not just for personal growth. It is meant to be shared, taught, and multiplied. But sharing God’s Word is not like sharing opinions, motivational thoughts, or life tips. It carries eternal weight. Those who teach it are called to do so with **accuracy, humility, and boldness**.

This ninth essay in *The Christian and the Word of God* series equips believers to **teach, disciple, and shepherd others faithfully**—whether in a pulpit, a classroom, a living room, or an online platform. You will learn how to handle the Word without compromise, speak it without pride, and let **Scripture speak louder than self**.

### **1. The Call to Feed the Flock**

*“Feed the flock of God which is among you...” – 1 Peter 5:2*

The word “feed” here comes from the Greek *poimainō*, meaning to shepherd, tend, and nourish. Peter is echoing Jesus’ command:

*“Feed my lambs... feed my sheep.” – John 21:15–17*

God’s people are called **sheep** for a reason:

- They need guidance.
- They need regular feeding.
- They are vulnerable to predators.

And God raises up faithful teachers, parents, mentors, and pastors to do this work. You don’t need a title to be a teacher. You just need to be **filled with the Word and faithful to share it**.

### **2. Teaching Is a Serious Stewardship**

*“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” – James 3:1*

Teaching Scripture is not like teaching math or history. It is **a divine stewardship**. Teachers are held to a higher standard because they:

- Represent God's truth.
- Shape others' understanding.
- Influence lives eternally.

This means:

- **Accuracy matters.**
- **Tone matters.**
- **Example matters.**

We must approach the task with **reverence**, not ego.

### **3. Rightly Dividing – Teaching Truth Without Confusion**

*“Rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15*

One of the greatest responsibilities in feeding others is to teach the **right truths to the right people at the right time**. This requires **right division**—understanding:

- Who is speaking.
- To whom they are speaking.
- Under what covenant they are speaking.

For example:

- Don't teach law as grace.
- Don't confuse Israel with the Church.
- Don't blend tribulation doctrine with Church-age doctrine.

Right division protects people from false doctrine, misplaced promises, and spiritual frustration. Teaching the Word is not just about **passion**—it's about **precision**.

### **4. Letting Scripture Speak Louder Than Self**

*“Preach the word...” – 2 Timothy 4:2*

Too many teachers make Scripture a **side dish** to their opinions, stories, or slogans. But faithful teachers let the **text drive the teaching**.

The goal is not:

- To impress with clever outlines.
- To entertain with stories.
- To build a personal brand.

The goal is to **make the meaning of Scripture clear**, and to let **God's voice be louder than yours**.

This requires:

- Word-for-word reading.
- Careful explanation.
- Thoughtful application.
- Reverence for context.

Let your teaching be known not for its charisma, but for its **faithfulness to the text**.

## 5. Teaching Without Pride or Performance

Paul told Timothy to “reprove, rebuke, exhort”—but to do it with **all longsuffering and doctrine** (2 Timothy 4:2).

This balance is key:

- **Boldness** without arrogance.
- **Clarity** without cruelty.
- **Conviction** without self-promotion.

Prideful teaching:

- Makes the teacher the hero.
- Boasts in knowledge.
- Looks down on those who disagree.
- Turns the pulpit into a stage.

Faithful teaching:

- Glorifies Christ.
- Points to Scripture.
- Bears with the slow learner.
- Speaks truth in love.

We are not here to perform. We are here to **deliver God's mail without editing it.**

## 6. Teaching in the Home: Leading Your Family with the Word

Feeding the flock begins in the home.

*“And these words... thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...” – Deuteronomy 6:6–7*

Fathers, mothers, grandparents—your home is a **mini-church**, and you are the shepherds. It is not the church's job to disciple your kids. It's **yours**.

Ways to teach in the home:

- Read a chapter together daily.
- Discuss verses around the table.
- Memorize Scripture together.
- Let your children see you studying the Word.
- Answer questions with open Bibles, not just “because I said so.”

When the home is Word-filled, the church becomes stronger. When homes are silent, churches starve.

## 7. Teaching in Small Groups, Classes, and Ministries

Not everyone is called to preach in a pulpit. But many are called to teach in smaller settings:

- Sunday school
- Bible studies

- Youth groups
- Online ministries
- One-on-one discipling

The same principles apply:

- Keep the Word central.
- Stay rightly divided.
- Avoid speculation and mysticism.
- Allow questions.
- Pray for wisdom before and after every session.

In small groups, relationships matter. People don't just need truth—they need a **safe space to wrestle with it**.

Encourage application, not just information. Build learners, not listeners.

## **8. Teaching Online: Discipleship in the Digital Age**

With social media and online platforms, many believers now have teaching influence far beyond their local setting. But digital reach comes with **spiritual responsibility**.

If you're posting Scripture, creating videos, sharing studies:

- Teach from the Bible, not feelings.
- Don't chase controversy or clickbait.
- Be ready to explain your position biblically.
- Avoid shallow soundbites—depth matters.
- Always remember: you are speaking for the Lord, not just for your brand.

Online ministry is a gift—but it must be **grounded in Scripture, guarded by humility, and governed by truth**.

## **9. Handling Tough Topics with Scripture, Not Softness**

Some topics are hard to teach:

- Hell
- Repentance
- Gender roles
- Eternal judgment
- Church discipline

Many teachers soften the blow or skip these entirely. But faithful feeding means **teaching the full counsel of God**.

*“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.” – Acts 20:27*

Teach the hard truths:

- With clarity
- With compassion
- With confidence in God’s Word

Don’t be afraid to say what God has said. Silence doesn’t protect people—it leaves them vulnerable. Truth, even when hard, is **always loving** when it’s rightly divided and clearly delivered.

## **10. Multiplying Teachers: Training Others to Feed the Flock**

Paul told Timothy:

*“The things that thou hast heard of me... commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2*

Teaching is not just about giving—it’s about **multiplying**. Train others to teach:

- Encourage them to study deeply.
- Help them develop biblical outlines.
- Teach them how to pray and prepare.
- Let them teach in safe settings and offer feedback.

The church is not built by celebrity pastors—it is built by **faithful men and women multiplying the Word of God through generations**.

## **11. Common Pitfalls in Teaching – And How to Avoid Them**

### **1. Overemphasizing Application without Interpretation**

Application without context leads to misinterpretation. Always interpret first.

### **2. Making It About You**

Use testimony sparingly. Let Scripture shine.

### **3. Avoiding Hard Questions**

Don't fear "I don't know." Go study and return with answers.

### **4. Copying Others Instead of Studying**

Commentaries help—but don't substitute them for **your own study under the Spirit's guidance.**

### **5. Quoting Scripture Loosely or Inaccurately**

Always open the Bible. Quote exactly. Teach from it visibly.

## **12. A Final Charge to Every Teacher, Parent, Disciple-Maker**

The Word of God is **the most powerful force on earth.** It creates, convicts, sanctifies, and saves.

To hold it is holy.

To teach it is weighty.

To share it is warfare.

To multiply it is legacy.

Feed the flock.

Feed your family.

Feed your students.

Feed your platform.

And when you're tired, discouraged, or unsure—keep feeding.

Because the Word will not return void.

It will do what God pleases, and **it will prosper in the thing whereunto He sent it** (Isaiah 55:11).

*"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine..." – 1 Timothy 4:6*

## **Conclusion: Feed, or They Will Starve**

In a world full of opinions, noise, false teaching, and spiritual junk food, there is one thing every soul desperately needs: **the pure Word of God.**

So teach it.

Not for applause.

Not for a following.

Not for pride.

But because **truth saves souls**, strengthens believers, and glorifies Christ.

Be faithful. Be bold. Be biblical.

And feed the flock.

## **10 of 10: The Christian and the Word of God – Holding Forth the Word: Standing Boldly in a Bible-Rejecting World**

*“Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” – Philippians 2:16*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” – Romans 1:16*

## **Introduction: The Last Days Require Bible Boldness**

The world is not growing more tolerant of truth—it is growing more hostile. In a culture that mocks Scripture, silences biblical morality, and rewrites the definitions of right and wrong, the call of the believer has not changed: **Hold forth the Word of life.**

This is not a passive suggestion. It is a militant stance. To “hold forth” means to **shine**, **declare**, and **offer** the truth to a dark and dying world. The Christian life is not a retreat into silence—it is a call to **stand unashamed**, with a Bible in one hand and a cross on your back.

This final essay in *The Christian and the Word of God* series is a charge to every believer to live a **Bible-saturated, Spirit-filled, gospel-driven life**—no matter the cost. We will explore what it means to stand boldly, witness publicly, and defend truth with grace in an age that despises absolutes.

## 1. Holding Forth the Word: What Does It Mean?

*“Holding forth the word of life...” – Philippians 2:16*

The phrase “holding forth” in Greek (*epechontes*) means:

- To offer up as a beacon.
- To display prominently.
- To extend for others to grasp.

It’s the picture of a lighthouse keeper holding out a lantern through the storm. The Church doesn’t hide the Word in a drawer—it lifts it high like a banner. And in the last days, that banner must not droop in the wind of compromise or fall under the weight of intimidation.

To “hold forth the Word” is to:

- Live it out openly.
- Speak it boldly.
- Defend it clearly.
- Refuse to water it down.

## 2. Living Unashamed in a Mocking World

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...” – Romans 1:16*

The gospel is power, but it is offensive. It tells men they are sinners. It denies self-righteousness. It offers one exclusive way to salvation. And in a world that values tolerance over truth, that message provokes scorn.

Many Christians today remain silent—not because they lack knowledge, but because they fear backlash. But Paul reminds us: **Shame and gospel witness cannot coexist.**

Christians must resolve:

- To speak even when mocked.
- To stand even when isolated.
- To preach even when rejected.

Ashamed believers become silent. Bold believers become **salt and light**.

### 3. Spiritual Boldness: Powered by Truth, Not Ego

*“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.” – Acts 4:29*

Biblical boldness is not arrogance. It is not shouting louder than your enemies or mocking those in error. It is **confidence rooted in truth**, spoken with humility, powered by the Holy Ghost.

Peter and John were uneducated fishermen, but they shook cities because they were:

- **Filled with the Spirit** (Acts 4:8).
- **Convinced of the resurrection** (Acts 4:10).
- **Anchored in Scripture** (Acts 4:11–12).

Boldness does not come from personality—it comes from conviction. The more Scripture fills your heart, the less fear will rule your life.

### 4. The Cost of Standing for the Bible

Holding forth the Word comes with a cost:

- **Social rejection** (Luke 6:22).
- **Family tension** (Matthew 10:35–37).
- **Professional loss** (Revelation 13:17 – prophetically, and increasingly in principle).
- **Legal pressure** (Acts 5:28–29).

In the early Church, Christians were not persecuted because they worshipped Jesus—they were persecuted because they **declared Jesus to be Lord**, rejecting Caesar’s authority.

Today, believers are fine as long as they stay vague. But once you **quote the Bible**, once you **name sin**, once you **preach Christ as the only way**—the pushback comes fast.

But Jesus said:

*“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you... for my sake.” – Matthew 5:11*

Truth has always cost something. But the reward is eternal.

## 5. Public Witness: More Than Private Faith

Modern Christianity often emphasizes a private, personal walk with God. But Scripture commands a **public confession of faith**.

*“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” – Matthew 5:14*

To witness is to:

- Speak the gospel to unbelievers.
- Share truth when prompted.
- Defend the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

Witnessing is not for the few—it is the duty of every believer. A silent Christian in a loud world becomes complicit in the culture’s deception.

We are not called to win arguments—we are called to **proclaim truth**. And that starts with courage, clarity, and compassion.

## 6. Defending Truth With Grace

*“Speaking the truth in love...” – Ephesians 4:15*

Truth without love is harsh. Love without truth is hollow. A Bible-believing Christian must **balance both**.

Defending Scripture in today’s world requires:

- **Gentleness** without compromise.
- **Patience** with the spiritually blind.
- **Firmness** in doctrine.
- **Kindness** in tone.

Apologetics is not about being clever—it’s about being **faithful**. You don’t need to be a scholar. You just need to:

- Know your Bible.
- Listen well.

- Refuse to budge on essentials.

*“Contend for the faith...” – Jude 1:3*

But contend like Christ, not like a Pharisee.

## 7. The Importance of Bible Saturation

To hold forth the Word, you must first be **filled with the Word**.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” – Colossians 3:16*

A Christian who knows a few verses can survive.

A Christian who knows the **whole counsel of God** can **stand, speak, lead, and defend**.

Bible saturation leads to:

- **Mental resilience** in trials.
- **Discernment** in doctrine.
- **Boldness** in witness.
- **Peace** in persecution.

You can't hold forth what you haven't first **hidden in your heart** (Psalm 119:11).

## 8. What It Looks Like to Stand Boldly Today

In today's climate, holding forth the Word may look like:

- Refusing to use preferred pronouns because God defines male and female.
- Declining to affirm same-sex marriage because Scripture defines marriage.
- Preaching repentance, not relevance.
- Prioritizing Scripture over popular opinion.
- Defending the King James Bible as God's preserved Word in a sea of confusion.

Boldness is not showmanship. It's **faithful obedience** when compromise would be easier.

## 9. Encouragement for the Bible Warrior

You're not alone.

Elijah thought he was alone—but God had 7,000 others who hadn't bowed (1 Kings 19:18).  
You may feel outnumbered, but the remnant still stands.

You are not responsible for:

- Changing hearts (that's God's job).
- Winning debates.
- Being liked.

You are responsible to:

- Speak the truth.
- Live the truth.
- Endure for the truth.

And when you do—you will shine.

*“Among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life...” – Philipians 2:15–16*

## **10. The Final Hour Requires a Final Resolve**

We are in the last days.

Truth is being trampled.

Evil is called good.

Churches are going soft.

Bibles are being edited, replaced, or ignored.

But God's call remains the same:

**Hold forth the Word.**

Not with a whisper—but with **clarity**.

Not with apology—but with **authority**.

Not for applause—but for **eternal reward**.

The time for casual Christianity is over.

Now is the time for Word-filled warriors.

Will you be one of them?

## **Conclusion: When You Stand With the Word, You Stand With God**

*“He that is of God heareth God’s words...” – John 8:47*

*“Thy word is truth.” – John 17:17*

If you stand with the Bible, you stand with God. And though the world may label you ignorant, hateful, bigoted, or outdated—heaven calls you **faithful**.

So take up your Bible.

Take up your cross.

Take your stand.

Hold forth the Word—boldly, clearly, lovingly, and unashamed.

The world is growing darker.

**Let the Word shine brighter.**

## **Conclusion: A Bible in the Hand, a Fire in the Heart**

### **Finishing the Course with the Word That Never Fails**

We’ve come to the end of this series—but not the end of your journey.

If you’ve made it this far, you’ve been challenged to open your Bible with new eyes... to approach the Word not as a casual reader, but as a disciple under orders... as a warrior arming up... as a servant eager to hear his Master’s voice.

You’ve seen how to rightly divide it.

You’ve learned how to read it daily, study it deeply, guard it fiercely, and share it faithfully.

And now the real test begins: **Will you live it boldly?**

This is where the Christian life rises or falls—not on emotion, not on dreams, not on conferences, and not on charisma—but **on whether you continue in the Word of God.**

*“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.” – John 8:31*

The sad truth? Many start well. They get excited for a season. They download plans. They buy new study Bibles. They highlight verses. But then life hits. Trials come. The old flesh whispers. And the Book gathers dust again.

But for the Christian who refuses to let go—for the one who eats this Book like daily bread, who carries it like a sword, who hides it in their heart like treasure—they will endure. They will bear fruit. They will overcome.

Because this Book is no ordinary book.

### **The Word Is Not a Hobby—It’s the Lifeline**

Let the world call it outdated. Let the critics mock its contradictions. Let the seminaries dissect it. Let the churches replace it with screens and slogans.

But as for you, stand. Stand on the unchanging Word of the Living God.

*“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.” –  
Isaiah 40:8*

This Book has weathered every storm.

It has outlived every empire.

It has survived popes, heretics, and modern publishers.

It has walked through fire, crossed oceans, been chained in dungeons, read by candlelight, and memorized in caves.

And it still speaks.

### **What Happens Now?**

Now you apply. Now you build. Now you teach it to your children, your church, your neighbors, and even your enemies. Now you live in it like it’s the air you breathe.

Here’s what the next chapter of your life must include:

- **Daily feeding** – No skipping meals. No fast-food faith. This is your manna. Wake up early if you must. Stay up late. Set an alarm. Find the time. You find time for everything else.
- **Bold discernment** – You now know how to spot wolves with Bibles. Use that discernment. Protect the flock. Expose false doctrine. Don’t apologize for loving the truth.
- **Scripture memory** – This is not a Sunday school relic. It is a wartime discipline. Hide verses in your heart so the enemy can’t steal your sword when the fog of battle sets in.

- **Right division** – Keep learning how to divide law from grace, Israel from the Church, prophecy from mystery. This will spare you from error and set you apart from those drowning in confusion.
- **Teaching others** – Whether you’re a parent, pastor, small group leader, online witness, or simply a friend—**your call is to feed the flock and hold forth the Word.**

*“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...” – 2 Timothy 4:2*

Don’t just read the Bible. **Unleash it.**

### **And When the World Comes for Your Bible?**

Make no mistake: The Word of God is under attack. Always has been. Always will be. The devil’s oldest trick was to question God’s Word (“Yea, hath God said?”), and it’s still his favorite game today.

- When people call you narrow-minded for quoting Scripture—**stand.**
- When professors mock your faith—**stand.**
- When friends walk away because you won’t compromise—**stand.**
- When the pressure mounts to “update” your Bible for modern times—**stand.**

And when it gets hard to stand—**kneel.** Pray. Cry out. And then rise again with the Word as your shield and sword.

Because in the end, **God’s Word will not return void** (Isaiah 55:11).

It never has. It never will.

### **Final Charge to the Reader**

There are two types of Christians in the last days:

- Those **shaped by the world**, softened by compromise, tossed by emotion, confused by every wind of doctrine.
- And those **shaped by the Word**—hardened in holy conviction, saturated in Scripture, unshakable in truth, full of grace and boldness.

Which one are you becoming?

The hour is late. The battle is hot. And the world is desperate for a people who still believe what God said, who still preach what God wrote, and who still live what God commands.

**So be one of them.**

- Love the Word.
- Obey the Word.
- Teach the Word.
- And never be ashamed of the Word.

For in the end, **heaven and earth shall pass away, but His Word shall not pass away.**

This is your sword.

This is your light.

This is your weapon.

This is your anchor.

This is your call.

**Now go, and hold it forth.**