



Getting Started on a New Way of Life

4. Life Wisdom – THE BIBLE

What: The Bible is *a collection of books*, written by dozens of authors over many hundreds of years. Some are very brief—less than a page—while others are much longer. What makes the Bible so different from other books? At first glance it looks like any other book. You also might wonder if it's of any use to us today, since it mostly tells about events that happened thousands of years ago. And yet people in every generation have found its message indispensable, and its influence on individuals and society over the centuries has been enormous. Why? The Bible deals with timeless questions: Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? How should we live? However, from the beginning to the end, the Bible has one common theme: God's relationship with humanity. This is one reason why the books of the Bible are just as relevant today as when they were written. *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*

Who: God is communicating to us - the One and only true God. The One who created the universe, the One who created man in His own image - the One who made His glorious plan of redemption. This God gave us His word – the Scriptures.

How: The Bible is without error. It is God-breathed, (2 Peter 1:20-21) living, powerful; (Hebrews. 4: 12) trustworthy document; (2 Tim. 3: 16 – 17).

Why? The Bible tells us:

- Our need to study it – 2 Tim. 2:15
 - Our sin and guilt – Romans 3:23
 - God's way of salvation – the Gospel – Romans 1: 16-17
 - God's love – Romans 5: 8-11
 - Our responsibility to evangelize and disciple others – Matthew 28: 18-20
 - How to love and obey God's commands – John 14: 15, 21, 23
- "Sin will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sin."***

How to Study the Bible

1. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word of God to us – John 14: 26
2. **Read** the passage repeatedly – Romans 10: 17
3. **Observe** the passage. Ask and answer:

- What are the clear facts?
- What is taking place in the passage?
- Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- What are the key words? Subjects? Commands?
- What do you clearly see?

4. **Interpret** (Looking for meaning):

- Read the context before and after the passage.
- What does it mean?
- What did the writer intend for his readers to understand and see?
- Define key words.
- Be careful not to draw conclusions or opinions that the author did not intend.

5. **Application** (the goal is life-change). The Bible can change us and the world around us.

Ask and answer (S.P.E.C.K.)

Are there:

<u>S</u> ins to forsake?	1 John 1:9
<u>P</u> romises to claim?	1 John 4: 4
<u>E</u> xamples to follow?	Philippians 3: 17
<u>C</u> ommands to obey?	1 John 5:3
<u>K</u> nowledge gained?	Proverbs 22: 20

6. **Do it!** Luke 14: 12-15

7. **Share it!** Have your disciple teach it back to you, then teach it to someone else.

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matt. 28: 18-20