

## Why is the Bible such a big deal?

**Because** the Scriptures *point to* and are *fulfilled* in **Jesus Christ**. And that's a big deal because He is the only One authorized to give life.

"And [Jesus] said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me." John 5:39

"But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people. And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." Acts 3:18-26

**Because** only those who **do the will of the Father** will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt 7:21). Jesus equates doing the will of the Father with **hearing His words and doing them** (Matt 7:24). Many will come in His name and perform signs and wonders and Jesus **will not know them**. He only knows those who hear and do His words.

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By **guarding it according to your word**. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have **stored up your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:9-11

"You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and **keep his commandments** and **obey his voice**, and you shall serve him and **hold fast to him**. Deuteronomy 13:1-4

**Because** we will be unable to **follow Jesus** and **be known by Him** apart from **knowing His Word**.

"Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who **goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God**. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." 2 John :8-9

**"If** you **abide** in my **word**, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

## Only the Word of God can give life.

Anything else (*words of man, wisdom of world*) that we would give or receive will **profit nothing**.

### Jesus:

“It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh is of no avail**. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”  
John 6:63

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean **because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing**. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, **just as I have kept** my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” John 15:1-10

*Maybe I knew the truth  
yesterday. But do I still  
know the truth today? Do I  
daily allow God's Word to  
assure me of things hoped  
for and unseen?*

*Do I know God's promises and  
commands for me today? Am I in step  
with what the Spirit of God is doing  
in my midst or am I living by sight?*

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **if indeed you continue** in the faith, stable and steadfast, **not shifting from the hope of the gospel** that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Colossians 1:21-23

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in him, rooted and built up** in him and **established in the faith**, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.” Colossians 2:6-10

*Would you go days without  
eating food and thus starve  
your body? Would you go days  
without hearing the Word of  
Christ and thus starve your  
soul?*

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word** I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

# The work of God is that we believe in His Son

John 6:29

**God's Word: Promises** - A declaration of who God is and/or what He will do. A call to trust that God will provide what we cannot see with our eyes.

*"This is who I am and this is what I do."*

*"The Kingdom of God is at hand!"*

**God's Word: Commands** - The practical steps God tells us to take that indicate our faith in His promises.

*"Because of who I am and what I do, this is what you must do."*

*"Repent and believe in the good news."*

**Belief / Faith:** Receiving God's testimony of Himself as true and responding in obedience.

*"Because of who God is as revealed in His Word, this is how I must live."*

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:1-5*

**Promise:**

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5*

*Therefore*

**Command:**

*"Preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13-16*

*"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me." John 14:23-24*

# What is the will of God?

## What is 'the world'?

Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him will be saved. John 6:40

### However...

We are not even capable of this one simple thing and thus in need of God's grace...

### For...

No one can come to the Son unless the Father draws him. John 6:44

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who **through him are believers in God**, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 1 Peter 1:20-21

***So Father we beg of you,  
draw us to your Son, may  
your will be done.***

*Jesus, operating within the will of the Father  
can then invite us:*

**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,  
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in  
heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For  
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

Matthew 11:28-30

**The yoke of Jesus is his commandments,  
which are not burdensome.**

F o r b y k e e p i n g h i s  
c o m m a n d m e n t s...

**We shall overcome the world.**

1 John 5:4

love of self, love of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, love of pleasure rather than love of God, has the appearance of godliness, but denies its power. 2 Timothy 3:2-5

### Do not love the world...

or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

### For the grace of God has appeared...

bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14

### And He provides all that he requires...

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

## May the fear of the Lord persuade us...

For...

What we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 2 Corinthians 5:11

### So Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! Lamentations 3:40

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2 Corinthians 13:5

## How do I know that I am receiving life through Jesus Christ?

You will do the works that Jesus did and even greater works. John 14:12

You will keep the commandments of Jesus. John 14:15

You will do the will of the Father. Matthew 7:21

You will rejoice when you suffer for the sake of Christ. 1 Peter 4:13

You will practice righteousness and no longer make a practice of sinning. 1 John 3:6-8

You will obey the gospel of God. 1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

You will demonstrate in increasing measure the same qualities that are found in God. 2 Peter 1:3-11

You will continually repent and return to God. Luke 13:3; 1 John 1:9

You will hear and do the words of Jesus. Matthew 7:24-27

You will abide in Jesus whereby he bears fruit in and through your life. John 15:1-6

You will encounter persecution for your faith and devotion to Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 3:12

You will go and make disciples. Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21

You will be hated by the world. Luke 21:16-18

You will walk in the same way that Jesus did. 1 John 2:4-6

You will live in the awareness that you are a sinner and in constant need of God's grace and forgiveness. 1 John 1:10; John 16:8

You will suffer with Jesus. Romans 8:16-17

You will desire to do the will of God. Psalm 40:8

You will proclaim the Word of Christ. Romans 10:15

You will be led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:14

You will be assured of your salvation. 1 John 2:5-6

You will know Jesus as the only Son, sent by the Father. 1 John 5:11

You will love your neighbor. 1 John 4:20

You will forgive those who do you wrong. Matthew 6:14-15

You will daily deny yourself and take up your cross of suffering. Luke 9:23-27

Your faith will be tested by painful and difficult trials. James 1:2-4

You will live for the will of God and not the passions of your flesh. 1 Peter 4:1-2

### ***And what if, after examining my life against the Scripture, it appears that I am not receiving life through Jesus Christ?***

#### Call on him...

...when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world...  
1 Corinthians 11:32

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

#### For...

"All things are possible for one who believes." Jesus - Mark 9:23

***I believe; help my unbelief!***

***Where does belief come from? Is that something God expects me to do on my own?***

**Faith** comes from **hearing**, and hearing **through the Word of Christ**. Romans 10:17

The Word became flesh: His Word raises us from death into the life of the Trinity. John 5:25

You have dug out our ears that we may hear. Psalm 40:6

Through your Word Jesus, you give us the grace-filled miracle of faith in you.

