

# THE BIBLE

## Part 2

### LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVE

- To give you deep and lasting confidence in your God-given ability to understand the Bible.

**Remember the three words: *revelation, inspiration, illumination?***

- ***Revelation*** has been completed (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- ***Inspiration*** has been completed (1 Peter 1:10-12)
- ***Illumination*** is going on right now.

#### **PSALM 18:28 (NLT)**

You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

#### **PSALM 119:105**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

## **Illumination**

Illumination is the supernatural influence or ministry of the Holy Spirit, which enables all who believe in Christ to understand the Scriptures.

Picture it this way: With his revelation and by his inspiration, God sent the light of his Word into our world. Through illumination, the blinders are taken off our eyes so we can see the light that is already there.

Four things are necessary for illumination in a believer's life:

### **LOVE GOD'S WORD** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PSALM 119:97 (NCV)**

How I love your teachings! I think about them all day long.

#### **PSALM 119:127 (NLT)**

Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold.

#### **PROVERBS 2:3–6**

And if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: THE BIBLE (Part 2)

### How does the Bible have the potential for changing our lives?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1 PETER 1:23**

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **EPHESIANS 6:17**

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

#### **HEBREWS 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

In Ephesians the sword is in our hand, defending against the enemy. In Hebrews, the sword is in God's hands, penetrating and deeply impacting our lives.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: THE BIBLE (Part 2)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **JEREMIAH 15:16**

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.

### **MATTHEW 4:4**

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

### **1 PETER 2:2**

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

### **JEREMIAH 23:29**

"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

5. \_\_\_\_\_

### **JAMES 1:23-25**

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do.

## UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD \_\_\_\_\_

Two truths about every believer in Christ:

1. The Holy Spirit makes me \_\_\_\_\_ to understand the Bible.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 2:12–14 (NLT)**

And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

### **JOHN 16:13**

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth."

2. The Holy Spirit make me \_\_\_\_\_ for understanding the Bible.

### **1 JOHN 2:20, 27**

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth . . . As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.

## HANDLE GOD'S WORD \_\_\_\_\_

### **2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (NASB)**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

### **SEVEN RULES OF BIBLE STUDY**

Rule 1: Faith and the Holy Spirit are necessary for proper interpretation.

Rule 2: The Bible interprets itself.

APPLICATION: Learn to do cross-reference studies.

Rule 3: Understand the Old Testament in light of the

\_\_\_\_\_.

EXAMPLE: The Old Testament Law

Rule 4: Understand unclear passages in the light of \_\_\_\_\_ passages.

EXAMPLE:

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:29**

Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead?

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: THE BIBLE (Part 2)

Rule 5: Understand words and verses in the light of their \_\_\_\_\_.

EXAMPLE:

### **LUKE 12:19**

“Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.”

Rule 6: Understand historical passages in the light of \_\_\_\_\_ passages.

EXAMPLES:

### **DEUTERONOMY 17:17 (NLT)**

“The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the Lord.”

### **MARK 1:35**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Rule 7: Understand personal experience in the light of Scripture.

EXAMPLE:

### **ROMANS 13:8 (NASB)**

Owe nothing to anyone.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: THE BIBLE (Part 2)

### **STUDY GOD'S WORD**

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How do you decide to study God's Word as a lifetime commitment?

1. Vow before the Lord to trust in and commit to the truth of his Word.

#### **1 TIMOTHY 4:15–16**

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them.

2. Cultivate eagerness by examining God's Word for answers.

#### **ACTS 17:11**

They [the Bereans] received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

3. Tell others what you're learning from God's Word.

#### **COLOSSIANS 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.

4. Act on what you learn as you study the Bible.

#### **JAMES 1:22**

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tell about an experience that caused you to feel that you really love the Bible. What kind of experiences cause you to feel this way? When do you most deeply feel the truth that the Bible is a treasure?
  
2. Discuss together your answers to the following:
  - The Bible was like a seed to me when...
  - The Bible was like a sword to me when...
  - The Bible was like food to me when...
  - The Bible was like a hammer to me when...
  - The Bible was like a fire to me when...
  - The Bible was like a mirror to me when...
  
3. The Holy Spirit gives understanding of God's Word individually. John says we don't "need anyone to teach us." Yet the New Testament talks about, and even tells us to honor, the gifts of teaching and preaching. Why do we need teachers? How do these two truths fit together?
  
4. Which of the seven rules of Bible study do you think Christians most often stretch or break? How can we remind ourselves to handle the Bible accurately?