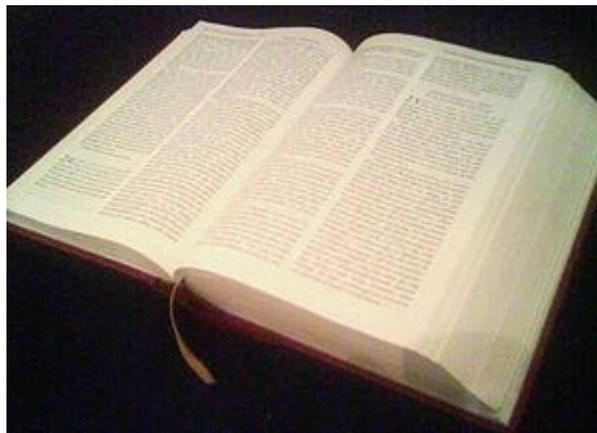


Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

Lesson 4

The Word of God – Lesson



THE WORD OF GOD

Second Peter 3:18 commands, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is the Word of God.

Our Lord wants us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ after we are saved. In Lesson 1 we saw that one of the most important things is our assurance. After assurance we need to grow in grace. To grow, we need food. The Bible is the *food* that we need.

We are babies in Christ when we are first born again.

I Peter 2:2, 3 – *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”*

Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

A baby Christian – no matter how eager, no matter how willing – is still a babe in the Lord. You and I were born physically as little babies and needed to grow. Even so, when one receives Christ and is born again, he is a spiritual baby. He needs to grow, to develop, and to become mature. Babies grow physically without a great deal of effort on their part, and growth is very normal and natural. However, certain conditions are essential for physical growth. One of the essentials for physical growth is *food – a proper diet*. And the same is true with spiritual growth. There must be the right *food – a proper diet*. **The food needed of spiritual growth is the Word of God.**

I said physical growth comes without a great deal of effort on the part of the child. This is not the case with spiritual growth. We become mature Christians only as we *consciously endeavor to become* mature Christians. We do not have to command our children to grow physically: but God does command Christians, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* ([II Peter 3:18](#)).

A baby must eat to grow. He begins with milk, and bit by bit he takes stronger food from pabulum through baby food until finally he can chew and digest beefsteak. He must eat right to develop. Someone has said, *“We are what we eat.”* That being true, it is vitally important that we have a good diet.

The same is true with the spiritual baby. He begins with a desire for the milk of the Word. He should develop so that later he would be able to feed on the meat of the Word. The tragedy is that some people never develop to take stronger food than just the milk of the Word.

[Hebrews 5:12-14](#) speaks of the sad condition of believers who have not grown to discern good and evil. *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

The writer of Hebrews here states that more Christians stay on a milk diet when they should be eating meat. They ought to be teaching God’s Word, but they cannot do so because they are still babies and have need to be taught by others the first principles for scriptural truth. Paul was burdened that this condition existed among the Corinthian believers. *“I have fed you with the milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able”* ([I Corinthians 3:2](#)).

Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

The Bible is the spiritual food for your spiritual development.

When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour, the *Lord Jesus*, who is the *Living Word*, came into your life by faith. Now you must feed on the *Bible*, the *Written Word*, which is the spiritual food for your spiritual development. It was through the *Word of God* that you first learned of salvation; and it is the same *Word of God* that gives food, strength, comfort, inspiration, challenge, wisdom, encouragement, and all that is necessary for growth and a successful Christian life.

Therefore, the Bible must become your first priority. The blessed man in [Psalm 1:2](#) is blessed because “*his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*” The only way to avoid spiritual malnutrition is to read God’s Word and to meditate (think carefully) on the things God has said to you in His Word.

The Bible should be sweet to the Christian.

The Bible should be as sweet to the Christian as it was to David according to [Psalm 119:103](#) – “*How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*”

God tells us in [Psalm 19:10, 11](#) how precious and sweet should be the truths of God’s Word to us – “*More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*”

The Bible is vital to us – “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” ([Matthew 4:4](#)). Also, [Deuteronomy 8:3](#).

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES FOR US

We are saved through the instrumentality of the Word of God.

I Peter 1:23, 25 – “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever ... And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*”

Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

We are changed by the Word of God.

Psalm 119:7 – *“I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.”*

We grow by the Word of God.

I Peter 2:2, 3 – *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”*

We are cleansed by the Word of God.

Psalm 119:9 – *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*

Our faith develops by the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 – *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

Everything we believe must be based on the Word of God. [Second Peter 3:18](#) states that we are to “grow in ... knowledge.”

That knowledge comes from the Word of God. The Bible must become our authority so that everything we believe is checked by the Bible.

We are kept from sin by the Word of God.

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

We defeat Satan through the Word of God.

Psalm 17:4 – *“Concerning the works of men, by the word of the lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.”*

The Lord Jesus, when He was tempted of Satan, answered Satan by quoting passages from Deuteronomy. With each temptation Jesus answered, *“It is written.”* (Note [Matthew 4:4, 7](#) and [10](#).)

Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

HOW WE SHOULD LEARN GOD'S WORD

We have stated that the Word of God is our food for spiritual strength and nourishment. It is also our offensive weapon to use in the spiritual battles which we will face.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” – Hebrews 4:12

The Bible is more than just a book with a cover and some pages. It is the written Word of God that needs to be internalized so that it can be effective in our lives. As we internalize God's Word, we know its benefits as our spiritual food and as our spiritual weapon.

The **NAVAGATORS** have used the illustration of the hand¹ (image has been inserted into the book which I am not able at this time to reproduce to put into this article. It is a line drawing of a hand holding a book with each finger and thumb tagged with a verse reference and the word it stands for. Each of these labels are described below):

A. We *hear* the Word of God for **faith**.

Romans 10:17 – *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

B. We *read* the Word of God for **food and strength**.

Job 23:12 – *“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”*

C. We *study* the Word of God for **Knowledge**.

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

D. We *memorize* the Word of God for **an effective testimony**.

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

Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.

Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.

E. We meditate on the Word of God for **spiritual profit**.

I Timothy 4:15 – “**Meditate** upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy **profiting** may appear to all.”

Note in [Psalm 119:15, 16](#) how that meditating brings delight. “I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.”

Note also [Psalm 104:34](#) – “My **meditation** of him shall be sweet: I will be **glad** in the Lord.”

After we have heard, and read, and studied, and memorized, and meditated upon the Word of God, we have one thing more we must do: Obey the Word of God.

*Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.
Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.*

Lesson 4

The Word of God – Assignments

1. Memorize [Psalm 119:11](#). Also, we suggest you memorize [Joshua 1:8](#) and [Psalm 119:103, 105](#).
2. Read John, chapters 1 -7. Note the miracles you find in this section. Please enter your findings under the “[Notes](#)” at the end of this Section.
3. Answer the following questions in your own words:

1. What are two things the Bible claims for itself? ([II Timothy 3:16](#))

2. For it to become profitable to us, what must we do? ([II Timothy 2:15](#))

3. What is one of the purposes for which God gave us His Word? ([John 20:31](#))

4. Who wrote the Bible, according to [II Peter 1:21](#)?

5. What part does the Bible have in the life of the blessed man, according to [Psalm 1:2](#)?

6. What is the food of the newborn child of God? ([I Peter 2:2](#); [Matthew 4:4](#))

*Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.
Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.*

7. What is the Word of God able to do? ([Acts 20:32](#))

8. What will memorizing the Word of God do for us? ([Psalm 119:11](#))

9. Who is a wise man? ([Matthew 7:24](#); [James 1:22](#))

10. As we come to the Word of God, [Psalm 119:18](#) would be a good prayer for us. Write that prayer out as it is given in this verse.

11. What will God’s Word do for us, according to [John 15:3](#)?

12. When tempted of Satan to overcome the attack, three times Jesus said, “As it is _____.”

13. From [Joshua 1:8](#) list at least four things that God says concerning the Word of God in the life of the Christian.

1. _____

*Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.
Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.*

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

NOTES:

1. A blessing I have received each day from reading of John 1 – 7:

[John 1](#) _____

[John 2](#) _____

[John 3](#) _____

[John 4](#) _____

[John 5](#) _____

[John 6](#) _____

[John 7](#) _____

2. Miracles I found in my reading of John 1 – 7:

[John 1](#) _____

[John 2](#) _____

[John 3](#) _____

[John 4](#) _____

[John 5](#) _____

*Written by Dr. Ed Nelson. Copyrighted 1976, 1981, 1984 (Revised), 1986, 1988.
Published by: The Mile High Evangelist Press, P.O. Box 260268, Denver CO 80226. All rights reserved.*

[John 6](#) _____

[John 7](#) _____

3. Truths I learned about the Bible, the Word of God, from the reading for this week:

[John 1](#) _____

[John 2](#) _____

[John 3](#) _____

[John 4](#) _____

[John 5](#) _____

[John 6](#) _____

[John 7](#) _____