

God's Word

... the sweet spiritual aroma of fresh baked bread, food for the soul!
Dennis Williams – The Navigators Detroit Metro Area Ministries (2025-03)

Psalm 19:7-10 ... The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Jeremiah 15:16 ... Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

Romans 15:4 ... For whatever was written in Scriptures long ago was written for our instruction, so that by the steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

Let your roots go deep in God's Word, for it is the soil that nourishes our growth into fruitful flourishing disciples of Christ.

On author's description of the Bible ... "The word ***Bible*** comes from the Greek word "βιβλία" (biblía), meaning "books" or "scrolls." The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written over a period of 1,600 years by more than 40 writers from all walks of life. Some were fishermen; some were politicians. Others were generals or kings, shepherds or historians. They were from three different continents, and wrote in three different languages ... They wrote in dungeons, in temples, on beaches, and on hillsides, during peacetime and during war. Yet their words sound like they were inspired by the same source, and their words have stood the test of time."

Listen carefully to this statement ... The Bible does not contain everything we need to know for life. How to balance your check book. How to raise tomatoes. How to change oil in your car. But what God has given us in these 66 books ... the wisdom & objective truth that applies to the many areas of life, the prophetic writings that give us understanding into who God is and His values and how He is at work in history, the insights and spiritual wisdom to understand ourselves and the world around us ... these lay the foundation for all of life! They are a gift from God that we might know Him and the paths of life!

Jesus said it this way ... Luke 6:46-49 RSV ... "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation upon rock; and when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But he who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

2 Peter 1:20-21 ... **First of all** you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

First of all! This is one of the most foundation things we have to understand in our faith! These 66 books are not just another set of men's words on paper like other books. They are God's Word to us that lead to life!

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

Paraphrase of Romans 12:2 ... Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world or blindly adapt the thinking of the culture around you. Instead, fix your attention on God and His Word, and quickly respond to it, adopting God's values and truths. Then you'll find God bringing out the best in you, guiding you into life that is fulfilling and good and pleasing and perfect.

Know the layout of the Bible ... 66 books, 1189 chapters, 31,102 verses

The books in the Bible are laid out on library shelves ... The word **Bible** comes from the Greek word "βιβλία" (biblía), meaning "books" or "scrolls."

39 books in the Old Testament ... God spoke to us through the eyewitness writings of His prophets.

27 books in the New Testament (3 x 9 = 27) ... God spoke to us through the Lord Jesus, His Son, who guided the eyewitness Apostles in their writings.

Old Testament – Five Shelves 5 12 5 5 12 books on the shelves 39 books

Shelf 1 – 5 books – The beginning of all history ... Creation, Humanity and God laying the foundation for the nation of Israel through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ... a people belonging to Him, through whom He wanted to bless the world.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy ... Often called the Torah or the Pentateuch

Shelf 2 – 12 books – History of the nation of Israel. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Shelf 3 – 5 books – Wisdom literature – Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Shelf 4 – 5 books – Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel – Longer eye witness prophetic books

Shelf 5 – 12 books – Minor Prophets – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi – Shorter eye witness prophetic books

New Testament – Four Shelves 5 14 7 1 books on the shelves 27 books (3 x 9)

Shelf 1 – 5 books – The coming of the King and His Kingdom ... the coming of the Holy Spirit at Jesus' Baptism and at Pentecost. What Jesus did while He was on this earth, and then what He did through His Apostles after His resurrection – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts of the Apostles (written by Luke)

Shelf 2 – 14 books – Letters from the Apostle Paul and his friends to help believers grow in their faith
Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians,
1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

Shelf 3 – 7 books – Letters from other Apostles – James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude
Reminding believers of what is really important in living out our faith.

Shelf 4 – 1 book – Things yet to come – Revelation (The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John)