

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 4:12, Colossians 3:16

Dear brothers and sisters,

Have you ever wondered why God gave us the Bible? Are we to simply read it, or is there a greater purpose?

The Bible is authored by God Himself. Why? Why would He care to reveal His mind and character in such a way? It is because He *is* God, loving and full of grace, merciful and compassionate, a complete being calling us back to Himself. He loves us and provides for us.

My source for this message is a video by Sylvester D. Mitchell that explains the reasons why God inspired man to write this awesome book for His children.

The Bible *is* the inspired Word of God, and therefore it has a divine purpose. It is alive and it is active and it carries the mind of God. In fact, the purpose can be remembered by an acronym from the word *Bible*.

First of all, it was created to **B**ring you to Christ. This is perhaps the greatest purpose. Before it teaches you anything, before it corrects you, before it equips you, before it empowers you, it first introduces you to the Savior. Jesus Himself said this in John 5:39: *“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.”* From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible continuously points to one person, Jesus. Genesis promises Him, Exodus pictures Him, Leviticus foreshadows Him, the prophets proclaim Him, the gospels reveal Him, the epistles explain Him, and Revelation glorifies Him. The Bible was never intended to just fill your head with information; it was designed to bring your heart into relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul even said this in Romans 10:17: *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word about Christ.”* How does faith of your salvation come? By the hearing of the Word of God! Without the Bible, we would not know the gospel, and without the gospel, we could not know Christ.

Reason number two is to **I**nstruct you. Once we come to Jesus Christ, the Bible begins to lead you. Salvation is the beginning, not the finish line. It is the starting point to new revelations in God. God doesn't save us and leave us

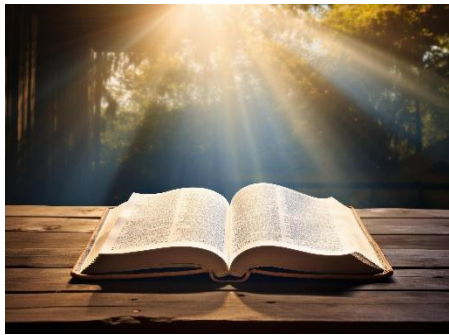
without direction. He teaches us how to live in the way that will be best for us and glorify Him. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”* The Bible doesn’t just tell what God doesn’t like, it also tells you what He *does* like and expect from His followers. It doesn’t merely confront your flesh, it transforms your life. God gave us His word because He wants His children to know how heaven thinks, how heaven moves and how heaven manifests.

Purpose number three: to **B**uild you. After the Bible brings you to Christ through salvation and it instructs you in the Word of God, it begins to then build you. Every time you read God’s word something is being developed inside your spirit. Faith is being constructed, hope is being constructed, wisdom, discernment and spiritual maturity are being constructed. Remember that Paul in Romans 10:17 said that faith is built through the Word. Peter added this in 1 Peter 2:2, *“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”* Notice that growth comes from feeding on the Word, not by merely attending church, not by simply shouting on a Sunday. Growth comes consistently by consuming Scripture. You don’t become spiritually mature because you have been saved for 20 years. You become spiritually mature because you have allowed it to build you for 20 years.

The fourth reason is that the Bible **L**eads you. People spend years asking God what His will is. Meanwhile, their Bible remains closed. Psalm 119:105 says this: *“Your Words is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”* Notice that God doesn’t always show you the entire road; He gives you enough light for your next step! Many people want a spotlight. They want to see everything at once, but God gives a lamp. The Word directs your decisions and guards your steps. It keeps you from an unnecessary detour. If you’re wondering where God is leading, you begin by opening the book He already gave you.

Finally, reason number five: it **E**quips you. God never calls anyone without providing what they need to fulfill their assignment, and His primary tool for equipping people is His word. Remember what Paul said God’s Word is useful for in 2 Timothy 3:16? He concludes that thought in verse 17: *“so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* Completely

able to do good works! The Bible equips you to be a better husband, a better wife, a better parent, a better sibling, a better employee, a better manager, a



better leader. And in all these things, especially to be a better servant. The Word equips you to be a better disciple of Christ. In everything God calls you to do, He has already begun preparing you through His Word. His Word calls you to action. It is a call to change, to grow.

In closing, there are five reasons God gave us His Word hidden within the very name B I B L E:

It brings you to Christ, it instructs you in Christ, it builds you in Christ, it leads you in Christ, and it equips you in Christ. As Christians, being immersed in God's Word is an essential part of our lives. Next week we'll move from why to how.

Your brother in Christ,

Archie

Call to Action: Read Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 4:12, and Colossians 3:16. How do these verses further develop your need to know God's Word intimately?