

Basic Training Lesson 5.3

The Bible is God's Word Part 3

John 5:39 Search the scriptures ; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

- I. Review
1. We are in our fifth topic of the Basic Training series. **[lesson review]**. As we have mentioned, This series is an effort to study some core Bible teachings of foundational topics that every Christian needs a good understanding of.
2. Our last two lessons were on the topic, The Bible is God's Word, and this is part three of that topic.
3. Last time we saw how the Bible has answers to mankind's deepest questions; how it contains the highest standard of morality of all religious books, and presents a consistent message across its 66 books.

4. We also studied several examples from history, science, and archaeology, that confirm the accounts and records found in the Bible.
5. But in a true sense, God's Word does very well speaking for itself.
6. Regardless of critical opinions against the Bible that continue to crumble as more archaeological evidence proves the Bible's stories, people continue to have their lives changed as they trust solely in God's promises found in it.

II. The Witness in Human Society

A. Universality

1. This morning I want to point your attention to a very obvious truth. The Bible is widely available because it is the best-selling and most widely distributed book in the world.
2. You would think that if God wrote a Book, He would want to make it widely available to all humans. It certainly is.

3. The 2023 online version of the Guinness Book of World Records has this entry on: **[slide]** the Best Selling Non-Fiction Book: “The best-selling book of all time is the Christian Bible. It is impossible to know exactly how many copies have been printed in the roughly 1500 years since its contents were standardized, but research conducted by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 2021 suggests that the total number probably lies between 5 and 7 billion copies.”¹
4. What has added to the Bible’s extremely wide distribution, according to that article, is that since the founding of Bible societies in the 1800s, most Bibles they have purchased have been given away as part of their Christian mission. Plus, Bibles are printed at a rate of around 80 million per

¹ <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/best-selling-book-of-non-fiction>

year, and it has been translated into more than 3,000 languages and dialects. ²

5. No other book in the world has ever come close to having such a widespread distribution as the Bible.
 6. The bottom line is, God wrote a book and he had made it widely available.
 7. God's Word is universal and prevalent even in places where it is banned!
- B. The Word gets through
1. You may have heard about the book, **[image]** "God's Smuggler," by Bro. Andrew.
 2. In 1955, when the atheist communist governments of eastern Europe were prohibiting the printing, selling and distribution of the Bible, Bro. Andrew, a Dutch missionary, began smuggling Bibles behind the Iron Curtain.
 3. Bro. Andrew would pray this simple prayer as he was attempting to cross a border:

² <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

“Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture that I want to take to Your children across the border. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see.”³

4. He told of how border guards would take four hours to search his car, two in the front, two in the rear, and two underneath, and all the while would have someone watching his eyes to see if he would grow nervous. But somehow they would somehow never see the Bibles.
5. He had packed Bibles into his little blue Volkswagon, under the back seat or under the front hood, ⁴ but in an interview in 1975, he reported that in 20 years of smuggling Bibles, he never lost one.⁵

³ <https://www.7sistershomeschool.com/high-school-student-shares-review-gods-smuggler-brother-andrew/#:~:text=God's%20Smuggler%20is%20an%20inspiring,of%20his%20conversion%20to%20Christianity.>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adaHX5fcGnk>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxnnl9BJL0s>

6. And because of his work, the Word of God brought hope into some of the darkest and most oppressed places on earth.
7. Bro. David Bernard told a story in his book on Spiritual Gifts of his trip to Bulgaria in 1988.
8. He had recently made contact with a sizeable group of underground believers who had been filled with the Holy Ghost and wanted to learn more about the apostolic message.
9. So traveling by car, he carried with him the manuscript of his book, “The Oneness of God” translated into Bulgarian. It was not only illegal to bring in Bibles, but also to distribute literature about the Bible.
10. So in crossing the border from Yugoslavia into Bulgaria, he decided to put his book on the back dash under a package. He hoped to look like a tourist.
11. At the border, Bro. Bernard reported that the captain of the guard singled out his car

- for a special search, and had him pull his car into a garage for a thorough search.
12. He said they searched the car from front to back, under the hood, and under the chassis.
 13. The guard came across a *National Geographic* magazine in the car and was very concerned about it. But when the guards uncovered his manuscript, he brushed his hand over it with the title clearly visible on top, yet it was as though he never saw it.
 14. After over an hour of searching, they waved him on to cross into Bulgaria.⁶
 15. Through the ages, God's Word has continued to make breakthroughs behind the Iron Curtain, the Bamboo Curtain, and even beyond the curtain of hearts that were cold and blind to the truth before them.
- c. Fulfilled promises and miracles

⁶ Bernard, David, *Spiritual Gifts*, Word Aflame Press, Hazelwood, MO, 1997; p. 133-134.

1. In the time periods when the events of the Bible were occurring, God used miracles to confirm the message of Scripture.

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

2. Shortly after Jesus said the words, “Lazarus come forth...[and] loose him and let him go,” the word spread that Jesus had raised a dead man:

John 11:45-48

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

*48 If we let him thus alone, **all men will***

believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

3. And even today, a strong confirmation of the words of the Bible are seen when people trust in the promises found in the Bible, and they receive the same miracles as described in the Bible.
4. We have heard many testimonies how sick people are healed—miraculously—over time or immediately!
5. The men heard an amazing story from Bro. Harold Hoffman yesterday about a man who died in a car accident, was wrapped in a body bag in a morgue, and then awoke and started calling out to staff in the morgue.
6. He asked for his clothes and cell phone so he could call that preacher to baptize him.
7. Only two weeks earlier that same man had stood up in church as Bro. Hoffman was preaching, and publicly mocked Bro. Hoffman as he walked out of his church.

God raised him and gave him another chance.

8. Plus, just as the Bible promised, people are still receiving the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues. That happens regularly around the world.
9. Healings occur, demons are cast out, and prayers are answered—all because someone has faith in the teachings of the Bible.

III. The Witness in Individual lives

A. Life-changing power

1. Why is all this talk about the Bible so important? Because people who believe and act on the teachings of the Bible can receive the Holy Ghost just as was promised and experienced in the Bible.
2. Lives are still being changed by its power.
3. Sinners who believe the Bible are converted supernaturally and delivered from sinful habits, addictions, sinful lifestyles, chronic

lying, alcoholism, drug addictions, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, stealing, and murder, and more.

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

4. *2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

5. I am not just in the church, when I trust in the Bible's promises, I can be filled with the Spirit in me and also be IN CHRIST!

6. If you are in Christ, you are in the safest place possible.
7. Why even death cannot hold down those who are in Christ!

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

8. People who believe the Bible message and commit their life to that message are still miraculously changed yet today.

B. The Word and the Spirit

1. Lives are still being changed according to the promises found in the Bible.
2. But working in conjunction with the pages of scripture is the Spirit of God Himself.
3. There is a very powerful connection between God's Word and God's Spirit.
4. We see that connection from the very beginning of creation in the first verses of the Bible.

Gen 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

5. When there was nothing but darkness out there, God's Spirit began to move. And when the move of the Spirit connected to God's Word, darkness was transformed into light.
6. That is a principle that can be seen over and over in scriptures.
7. In fact, that is the very principle that was behind the writing of scriptures. The Spirit moved and then there was the Word:
2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of

God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

8. And that is one way that God continues to get things done in our lives today. Regardless of how much darkness there may be around us, God still has a purpose to accomplish in us and through us.
9. I imagine this story has been repeated many times over and over through history.
10. Someone was moved by the Spirit to pray for someone in darkness. Maybe it was your son, your granddaughter, your mother, an uncle or neighbor.
11. But someone prayed intently as the Spirit moved on them. And that connection with the Spirit made in prayer kept the Spirit moving to that target person living in darkness.
12. That person began to feel the prompting of the Spirit on their heart. “You really need to give up that sin. You know you need to come to Me, why don’t you just do it.”

13. Then something about that move of the Spirit in that place of darkness brings about a connection with the Word of God.
14. Maybe it was a Bible verse you learned as a child that came to mind, or a poster or billboard you read, or something said on the radio, or a Facebook post that came through on your page, but that Word came through.
15. And when the Spirit moving on a heart connects with the Word of God, that union of God's Spirit and God's Word makes light appear in darkness.
16. A ray of hope is ignited and it starts a brilliant flame that awakens that soul to his need to turn to God. And then from seemingly out of nowhere, that person shows up in church and makes his way to an altar of prayer.
17. And one more time it can be said, "Hell lost another one, I am free! I am free!"

18. That is a cycle the Lord intends to demonstrate here this morning.

IV. The Word and You

1. Does the Bible still change lives? Is there anyone here who has had the Bible to impact your life to the point of changing you?

2. Is there anyone here who wants the Bible to change their life? Jesus is giving an invitation:

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

3. The most important truth that we can apply from what we have learned in these lessons is that the Bible is God's Word, it is

infallible, and we would be wise to make it a priority to know what it says and then live by it.

4. If God wrote a book, wouldn't it be wise to know much about it and obey it?

John 5:39 Search the scriptures ; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

5. That Book tells about eternal life and of Jesus.
6. Make reading it, listening to it, studying it, meditating on it, and memorizing it, a priority.