

HIDING THE WORD IN YOUR HEART

The Bible is not just any book, but it is a supernatural book, containing the living, incorruptible seed of the Word of God that is able to impart life to whosoever reads it. Thus the Bible cannot be read like any other book, but has to be read with the help and the leading of the Holy Spirit. The author of the Bible is not a man, but a supernatural God. The reason God gave us the Bible is because He wants to reveal Himself, His character and nature to us through its pages. There are little challenges throughout the Bible daring us to seek Him and to know Him in an intimate, personal way.

We need to learn to hide the Word of God in our hearts because it will help us to control our thoughts (*Proverbs 23:7; Philipians 4:8*) and to overcome sin (*Psalms 119:11*). There are several methods to accomplish this. We should be careful to practice each one of the methods; otherwise, our relationship with the scriptures will be incomplete, like a puzzle with a missing piece. As you meditate and memorize the word of God it will hide in our hearts and it will come alive (*Psalms 1:1-2, 119:11*).

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. It does not just contain the words of God; *it is the Word of God*. It contains many love letters from God to man. It also contains instruction for living, stories about love, adventure, war and mystery. If we are going to really get to know Him, we must get to know the book that reveals Him. We can never really love God more than we can obey Him, and can never really obey Him more than we can obey His word.

A. The Bible: God's Word

The Bible is no ordinary book. It was inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore has the ability to impart life to those that read it. It is a very unique book because God is its author. Men who listened to the voice of God wrote the Bible. It has authority and power to change people's lives if they hearken to it (*Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:15-16*).

1. The Bible's History

The Bible was written over a 2,000 year span, by more than 40 writers from diverse walks of life: kings, prophets, peasants, shepherds, soldiers, fishermen, poets, apostles, scholars, doctors and others. It was written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe, and in three languages: Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. Yet, it contains in its pages the same story: God's plan of salvation for humanity (*II Peter 1:20-21*).

The Bible has survived centuries of persecution, criticisms and ridicule. It has not only survived, but it has become the most read book in the entire world and the all-time bestseller. The French atheist Voltaire said the Bible would be extinct by 1850. Voltaire is come and gone, and the Bible is still here. Not only that, but the home of Voltaire became a printing shop where Bibles were printed for many years (*Matthew 24:35*).

2. The Bible's Reliability

No other book in the world can claim the Bible's accuracy of facts and prophecy. It predicted with incredible accuracy the futures of nations, races, cities and peoples. It gave incredible details about the coming of the Messiah. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament alone, given from 1600 to 400 in advance concerning Messiah, predicting the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible has a total of 66 books and is divided into 2 parts: The Old Testament (39 books), and the New Testament (27 books). The word testament means *covenant*.

B. The Benefits of Reading the Bible

Reading the Word of God has incredible benefits and blessings. It will help you grow in the Lord. You should start by reading the four gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. Meditate on what you read and try to apply it to your life. Following is a list of some of the things we receive when we read the Bible:

1. Salvation

The Bible has a message of good news, the gospel of salvation. It has the road map to Heaven that tells you what you must do in order to go there (*I Peter 1:23-25*).

2. Faith

We received salvation by grace through faith and it is important to continue to walk with God by faith. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God (*Hebrews 11:6*). Our walk with God is dependent on our faith and trust in Him (*II Corinthians 5:7*). How do we get it? (*Romans 10:17*).

3. Nourishment

The Word of God is food for our souls. We can't live by natural bread alone (*Job 23:12*). The Word is described in the Bible as milk (*I Peter 2:2*), honey (*Psalms 119:103*), bread (*Luke 4:4*), water (*Ephesians 5:26*) and meat, (*I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-14*).

4. Guidance

His Word guides us in our walk through life, and helps us find the will of God for us (*Psalms 119:105*).

5. Peace

The best way to receive peace when we go through times of trouble, fear and turmoil is by reading His Word (*Isaiah 26:3; Psalms 119:165*).

C. The Benefits of Hearing the Word of God

Hearing the Word being preached and taught by anointed men and women of God will produce faith in you (*Romans 10:17; Revelation 1:3*). Just because you hear something preached, or read it in some Christian book does not mean it is necessarily true. Search the scriptures to make sure the Bible backs it up before you accept and embrace anything (*Acts 17:11*). If you are still confused, ask your pastor and other men of God who are wise and experienced.

Christian music will also minister to you and bless you. Thanks to present day technology, we can hear the Word of God and Christian music in the form of cassettes, CD's, videotapes and Christian TV Programs. You can listen to the word of God while you are driving in your car, walking, jogging or just doing work around the house. Try to saturate your life with God's word everyday as much as possible. It will help you grow and develop into a strong Christian.

We have Christian Rap CD's that are loaded with the word of God, and each song is like a small message in itself. We also have other resource materials that will help you grow strong in the Lord. For more information you may visit our website at www.theappearance.com.