



PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

INTO THE WORD

LESSON 1

- WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON:
 - The Word of God is alive
 - The Word of God has the power to transform your life
 - Spiritual growth is a partnership
- BIBLICAL THEMES:
 - The blessing of the Word of God
 - The infallibility of the Scriptures
 - The Law of the Harvest
- SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-7
 - Matthew 13:3-23
 - John 15
- FOR FURTHER STUDY:
 1. What is the most important book we will ever read? Why?
 2. What are 3 of many benefits to knowing God's Word?
 3. What is the first and great commandment?
 4. What are the 4 types of soil in Matthew 13:3-23?

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Introduction:

"The Word of God is living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is the living Word of God, and as such it has power to transform our lives and impart new spiritual life. For the Bible to make this impact upon us, we must believe and obey its message. To do so, we must first understand its message. (*Understanding God's Word, David Bernard*)

This Bible study explores the Word of God and helps build a framework to understand the Bible. Together, we will look closely at the Bible, study its principles, examine its heroes, outline its prophecies, and inspect how the Old Testament and New Testament are interrelated. When we complete these lessons, we will have a solid framework of a "house of understanding the Bible". It will be up to you to study and apply the Bible's teaching for yourself – you will hang the drywall, put in the windows, and install the fixtures of this home by praying, studying the Word, and applying the teaching to your life.

The Bible is the most important book we will ever read.

- A poor family living in a home with a treasure chest in the attic is like many homes today, where Bibles sit unread on the bookshelves. Such a family may never know the eternal treasure that lies so closely within their reach.
- We must determine to study the Word of God and make it a daily practice in order to reap its eternal benefits.

Into the Word:

1. Understanding and applying God's Word brings benefits and blessings to our life

The principles of God's Word are eternal and will bring blessings to our lives if we understand, obey, and follow them to the best of our ability. We must diligently apply ourselves to discovering the truths of God's Word. In time, not only will our own lives be transformed, but we will forever positively impact the lives of future generations. We will leave a legacy of blessing.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NKJV)
⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
- **Note:** Meeting in homes is one way the early church spread the Gospel
 - Acts 2:46-47 – Apostles
 - Acts 16:32 – Philippian jailer who received the Word in his house
 - Acts 10 – Peter preaches in Cornelius’ house.
 - 1 Corinthians 16:19 – Aquila and Priscilla had a church in their house.
- Jesus called the below scripture (Mark 12:29-31) the first and great commandment. Let’s look closely at this very important scripture:
 - Mark 12:29-31 (NKJV)
²⁹Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD *is* one. ³⁰And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment. ³¹And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- What can we learn from these two passages of scripture (Deuteronomy 6 and Mark 12)?

We are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In response to this scripture, we must dedicate our whole person to the pursuit of God's Truth. Note how the second commandment addresses others: your neighbor. When we fully engage ourselves in learning and applying the Word of God, our lives will naturally begin to impact the lives of others.

2. I determine how I will respond to the truth of the Word of God and my spiritual growth

Spiritual development is a partnership between you and God. God's plan for you is perfect. His Word is true and contains everything you need for healthy spiritual growth. The divine Word of God is living and powerful; it always brings a positive change. Read the following scripture:

- Isaiah 55:6-13 (NLT)

¹¹ It is the same with my word, I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

However, only you can determine how you will respond to the Word of God.

Let's consider the parable of the sower.

- Parable of the Sower:

- Matthew 13:3-8;18-23 (NKJV)

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

STEP 2:

Seek to UNDERSTAND the Word of God. Apply yourself to discover what God is saying in Scripture.

- Act 17:11 (NLT)
¹¹ And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.
- Psalm 119:105 (NLT)
¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
- Psalm 119:165 (NLT)
¹⁶⁵ Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.
- Romans 3:4 (NKJV)
⁴ ...Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar...
- John 17:17 (NLT)
¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth

STEP 3:

BEAR FRUIT. Your life will begin to bear fruit as you apply the teachings and principles of God's Word to your life. In time, you will become fruitful, sharing and spreading God's Truth. Your life will be a testimony to the blessings of living a Godly life; you will have an opportunity to share God's goodness with others. You will become a fruitful tree.

- Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)
²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
- Matthew 7:16-17 (NLT)
¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.
- Luke 6:43-44 (NLT)
⁴³ "A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ A tree is identified by its fruit.
- John 15:8 (NLT)
⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.