

## INTRODUCTION

For you to benefit from this study, you must accept by faith two basic precepts. First, you must accept by faith that there is a God. Faith is believing in the reality of things that are not revealed through any of the five human senses. Without your having some faith, there is no way to prove to you the existence of God. Nature shows you the handiwork of God, but if you do not believe in your heart of God's existence, then nature by itself would not convince you of His reality. Your belief in God's existence must stem from an act of your faith.

**PSALM 14:1**

**THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART, THERE IS NO GOD. . .**

**SAY: *I AM NOT A FOOL: I BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.***

A second precept that is necessary to be accepted by faith is that God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind. Mankind in his natural state cannot enter the realm of the Divine, in order to find God. So, God chose to reveal Himself through His Word. By studying God's Word, we can acquire a partial understanding of who God is, but even then, we will still fall short of knowing God in His awesomeness, His glory, and His majesty. We will be seeing Him as if in a blurred mirror. I must hasten to add that the more we study His Word, the more we will learn about Him and the more we learn about Him, the greater our blessings will be. The following is God as I know Him: God is three distinct individuals who are Self-Caused, Self-Existent, Self-Conscious Personal Beings who transcends the entire creation, but is at the same time imminent in every part of it. These three persons function in perfect equality and unity to the degree that they operate as if they are One.

We are able to acquire accurate information about God through two Holy Spirit inspired forms—the written Word, better known as the Bible and the Living Word whom we know as Jesus. As you are going to learn, there is no difference between the two. The Bible and Jesus are One and the same, just in different forms. The two are inseparable. Everything in the Bible points to Jesus. We are going to find that Jesus is revealed in this Old Testament book in three ways: by direct revelation, by types, and by illuminating aspects of His nature. In the New Testament, we read about the fulfillment of the things regarding Jesus talked about in the Old Testament. So, it can be said that Jesus is the central focus of all the Scripture. You need to remember that the Bible is the only authoritative revelation of God to man.

As Jesus is revealed in the Bible, so is the Plan of Salvation. It is important for you to know that the whole story of Jesus and the whole story of salvation are one and the same. Therefore, the Bible does not just contain the Word of God, but it is the whole of the Word of God beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation. The Bible was inspired by God to present the complete Plan of Salvation by giving the story of Jesus.

**2 PETER 1:21**

**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.**

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16**

**16 ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS:**

The literal translation of the word *inspiration* is *God breathed*. God breathed upon the spirits of holy men that which was to become the history of mankind. The story of Jesus as told in the Bible is His-story. God declared that His Word would be for all eternity and would be a source of life for all who would believe it.

**REPEAT THE FOLLOWING: *I MAKE A QUALITY, FAITH-FILLED DECISION TO ACCEPT AS FACT: THERE IS A GOD. I BELIEVE THAT GOD IS AND THAT HE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO KNOW HIM THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD, THE BIBLE, AND THROUGH JESUS, THE LIVING WORD.***

**HEBREWS 11:6**

**BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**

From the time of the fall of Adam, mankind has had the desire to know God. For some it may be a conscious desire. For others it may be an unconscious desire. God knew that this desire would be manifested in mankind, so as He formed Adam, He placed within mankind a supernatural ability to commune with Him. This supernatural, God-given ability to commune with God is called faith.

**ROMANS 12:3**

**3 FOR I SAY, THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN UNTO ME, TO EVERY MAN THAT IS AMONG YOU, NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; BUT TO THINK SOBERLY, ACCORDING AS GOD HATH DEALT TO EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH.**

This is not to say that every single person communicates with God through faith, only that the possibility is present within mankind to do so if he or she chooses. Many people never take advantage of their measure of faith. Instead, they rely on their senses and never allow God to be a part of their lives. But that is not you—or is it?!!!

**ONE MORE TIME CONFESS: *I BELIEVE IN GOD AND I BELIEVE THAT I CAN KNOW HIM THROUGH HIS WORD. JESUS IS THE LIVING WORD AND THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN WORD.***

**Since God's Word is so important for us to believe, we should acquire as much information about the Bible as we can get. So, here are some facts about the Bible that will help us to better understand its content. It took more than 1600 years for the writing of the Scripture. It must be understood that God did not dictate the message to the writers. Instead, approximately 40 men were moved upon by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to write the Bible. The time of the writing was from 1500 BC to AD 100.**

**While the Bible is one book, it contains 66 smaller books. The books of the Old Testament were written before the birth of Jesus Christ. The life of Christ and information regarding how to be a disciple of Christ are covered in the New Testament. All but five of the books are divided into chapter and verses. Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude are divided only by verses. Chapters were introduced to the Bible in 1238 and verses were added in 1551.**

**Again, I repeat that the Bible is the only authoritative Word of God. There is no other absolute source of Truth. Over 3,000 times the Bible states "thus saith the Lord."**

**Several secular historians give validity to the New Testament by writing about the same event. The best-known secular historian was Josephus. He was a Jew. Tacitus was a Roman historian who had nothing to gain by agreeing with the Scriptures. More and more evidence of the validity of the New Testament is coming to light through archeological findings on a regular basis.**

**Other facts are that the Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages. There are no contradictions in the Bible. There are more than 3,200 verses with fulfilled prophecy either within the Bible itself or since the Bible was written. But there are still more than 3,100 verses with unfulfilled prophecies.**

**In summary of information about the Bible, note that the Bible (the Word of God) is eternal.**

**PSALM 119:89 and 160**

**89 FOR EVER, O LORD, THY WORD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN.**

**160 THY WORD IS TRUE FROM THE BEGINNING: AND EVERY ONE OF THY RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS ENDURETH FOR EVER.**

**LUKE 21:33**

**33 HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY: BUT MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY.**

**1 PETER 1:23-25**

**23 BEING BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED, BUT OF INCORRUPTIBLE, BY THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOR EVER.**

**24 FOR ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERETH, AND THE FLOWER THEREOF FALLETH AWAY:**

**25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOR EVER. AND THIS IS THE WORD WHICH BY THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED UNTO YOU.**

**The Bible gives and sustains life.**

**JOHN 6:63**

**63 IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH; THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE.**

**LUKE 4:4**

**4 AND JESUS ANSWERED HIM, SAYING, IT IS WRITTEN, THAT MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:16**

**16 HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE; THAT I MAY REJOICE IN THE DAY OF CHRIST, THAT I HAVE NOT RUN IN VAIN, NEITHER LABOURED IN VAIN.**

**ACTS 20:32**

**32 AND NOW, BRETHREN, I COMMEND YOU TO GOD, AND TO THE WORD OF HIS GRACE, WHICH IS ABLE TO BUILD YOU UP, AND TO GIVE YOU AN INHERITANCE AMONG ALL THEM WHICH ARE SANCTIFIED.**

**The Word of God produces blessings.**

**NUMBERS 23:19**

**19 GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE; NEITHER THE SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD REPENT: HATH HE SAID, AND SHALL HE NOT DO IT? OR HATH HE SPOKEN, AND SHALL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD?**

**JEREMIAH 1:12.**

**12 THEN SAID THE LORD UNTO ME, THOU HAST WELL SEEN: FOR I WILL HASTEN MY WORD TO PERFORM IT.**

**The word “hasten” in this verse means that God watches over His Word and makes things happen exactly as His Word says it will.**

**JOSHUA 1:8**

**8 THIS BOOK OF THE LAW SHALL NOT DEPART OUT OF THY MOUTH; BUT THOU SHALT MEDITATE THEREIN DAY AND NIGHT, THAT THOU MAYEST OBSERVE TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN THEREIN: FOR THEN THOU SHALT MAKE THY WAY PROSPEROUS, AND THEN THOU SHALT HAVE GOOD SUCCESS.**

**PSALM 19:7-11**

**7 THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT, CONVERTING THE SOUL: THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE.**

**8 THE STATUTES OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT, REJOICING THE HEART: THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE, ENLIGHTENING THE EYES.**

**9 THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN, ENDURING FOR EVER: THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER.**

**10 MORE TO BE DESIRED ARE THEY THAN GOLD, YEA, THAN MUCH FINE GOLD: SWEETER ALSO THAN HONEY AND THE HONEYCOMB.**

**11 MOREOVER BY THEM IS THY SERVANT WARNED: AND IN KEEPING OF THEM THERE IS GREAT REWARD.**

**PROVERBS 4:20-22**

**20 MY SON, ATTEND TO MY WORDS; INCLINE THINE EAR UNTO MY SAYINGS.**

**21 LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM THINE EYES; KEEP THEM IN THE MIDST OF THINE HEART.**

**22 FOR THEY ARE LIFE UNTO THOSE THAT FIND THEM, AND HEALTH TO ALL THEIR FLESH.**

**ISAIAH 55:11**

**11 SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOETH FORTH OUT OF MY MOUTH: IT SHALL NOT RETURN UNTO ME VOID, BUT IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH I PLEASE, AND IT SHALL PROSPER IN THE THING WHERE TO I SENT IT.**

**LUKE 11:28**

**28 BUT HE SAID, YEA RATHER, BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HEAR THE WORD OF GOD, AND KEEP IT.**

**MATTHEW 7:24-25**

**24 THEREFORE WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK:**

**25 AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL NOT: FOR IT WAS FOUNDED UPON A ROCK.**

**The Old Testament is the first part of Christian Bible. It is based on the Hebrew Bible. Most Christians and religious Jews accept the OT to be the sacred Word of God. The books that comprise the Old Testament canon, as well as their order and names, may differ between Christian denominations. The most common Protestant canon is comprised of 39 books. Some versions of Anglican and Lutheran Bibles have some extra books called the Apocrypha. These extra books are ultimately derived from the earlier Greek Septuagint collection of the Hebrew Scriptures and are also Jewish in origin. Some are also contained in the Dead Sea Scrolls.**

**The Old Testament consists of many distinct books by various authors produced over a period of centuries. Christians traditionally divide the Old Testament into four sections: (1) the first five books or Pentateuch (Torah); (2) the history books telling the history of the Israelites, from their conquest of Canaan to their defeat and exile in Babylon; (3) the poetic and "Wisdom books" dealing, in various forms, with questions of good and evil in the world; and (4) the books of the biblical prophets, warning of the consequences of turning away from God.**

**The New Testament's 27 books can be divided into five major divisions: (1) the Gospels; (2) history; (3) Pauline Epistles; (4) General Epistles; and (5) Prophecy. These books were written in Greek even though Jesus spoke Aramaic. Greek was a world-wide language and could be read anywhere in the known world. The Epistles, especially Paul's, were the first part of the New Testament to be written. The Gospels were written later from the memories of those who had walked with Jesus while He was here on earth.**

#### **LUKE 1:1-2**

**1 FORASMUCH AS MANY HAVE TAKEN IN HAND TO SET FORTH IN ORDER A DECLARATION OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE MOST SURELY BELIEVED AMONG US,  
2 EVEN AS THEY DELIVERED THEM UNTO US, WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING WERE EYEWITNESSES, AND MINISTERS OF THE WORD;**

**The entire New Testament was written by 8 authors over about 50 years beginning at approximately 48 A.D. It tells how the Messiah came and how He instituted the Plan of Salvation (God's GPS) for each of us. It sheds light for the correct interpretation of the Old Testament.**

**The canonicity of the whole Bible refers to the 66 books that were chosen to makeup our Bible. These books were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are considered the authoritative Word of God. Therefore, we are not to add to them nor delete from them.**

#### **DEUTERONOMY 4:2**

**2 YE SHALL NOT ADD UNTO THE WORD WHICH I COMMAND YOU, NEITHER SHALL YE DIMINISH OUGHT FROM IT, THAT YE MAY KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD WHICH I COMMAND YOU.**

#### **DEUTERONOMY 12:32**

**32 WHAT THING SOEVER I COMMAND YOU, OBSERVE TO DO IT: THOU SHALT NOT ADD THERETO, NOR DIMINISH FROM IT.**

#### **PROVERBS 30:5-6**

**5 EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE: HE IS A SHIELD UNTO THEM THAT PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.**

**6 ADD THOU NOT UNTO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REPROVE THEE, AND THOU BE FOUND A LIAR.**

**REVELATION 22:18-19**

**18 FOR I TESTIFY UNTO EVERY MAN THAT HEARETH THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK, IF ANY MAN SHALL ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, GOD SHALL ADD UNTO HIM THE PLAGUES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK:**

**19 AND IF ANY MAN SHALL TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE, AND OUT OF THE HOLY CITY, AND FROM THE THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK.**

**We are to study the Bible. It gives us faith as we meditate on it. This pleases God.**

**II TIMOTHY 2:15**

**15 STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.**