

Fundamentals of the Faith
Lesson Two—How To Know The Bible, Part One

A. The Goals Of Engagement With The Scripture:

1. To Paint: A more clear picture of who God is, keeping us from worshiping and serving a “form” of god that our flesh invents
 - a) Scripture is “special” or “more particularized” revelation from God as to who He is
 - (1) *The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands—Psalm 19:1-2 (NASB)*
 - (2) *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse—Romans 1:20 (NASB)*
 - (3) *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether—Psalm 19:7-9 (NKJV)*
 - b) This assumes that our remaining flesh still has a bent toward self-idolatry and away from God (Psalm 19:7)
2. To Love: Those who have experienced the love of God displayed in Christ are drawn to love God more through the clarity provided in His Word
 - a) *We love Him because He first loved us—1 John 4:19 (NKJV)*
 - b) *For the love of Christ controls, us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died—2 Corinthians 5:14*
 - c) Love for God is a fruit of the Spirit, and the Spirit stirs that love for Him when we encounter Him, in all of His glorious clarity, in His Word
3. To Obey: The Word of God expresses God’s expectations for His creatures and, in particular, His children who have been adopted in and through Christ
 - a) *If you love me, you will keep my commandments—John 14:15*
 - b) *The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him—John 14:21 (CSB)*
4. To Protect: The Word of God contains right teaching (sound/right doctrine) which protects us from false doctrine which perpetuate false views of God.

a) *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting—Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV)*

b) *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.—2 Peter 2:1-3 (NKJV)*

c) *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so—Acts 17:11*

5. To Grow: The Word of God is used by the Spirit to grow us in faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

a) *Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord—1 Peter 2:1-3 (NASB)*

b) *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen—2 Peter 3:17-18 (NASB)*