

# The Bible—God’s Word to Us

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## I GIVE YOU MY WORD

You just finished cutting the grass. You are supposed to get \$10 for the job. Now you hear this:

*“Listen, I’m sorry. I don’t have any money just now. I’ll give it to you Thursday. I promise.”*

*“But how do I know you’ll keep your promise?” you say.*

*“I give you my word!” comes the reply.*

Would you believe it? Would you believe it if the person speaking were your father or mother? a neighbor? the pastor? someone you had never met before? Talk about whom you would believe. Whose word would you accept? Why?

God gives His word to us too. We know His Word is true because God is holy. He does not lie. In the Bible God tells us of the lost condition of our world and of the great love He has for us. The Bible tells us of God’s plan to save us and always to help and never to leave those who by faith belong to Him.

## AN EXTRAORDINARY BOOK

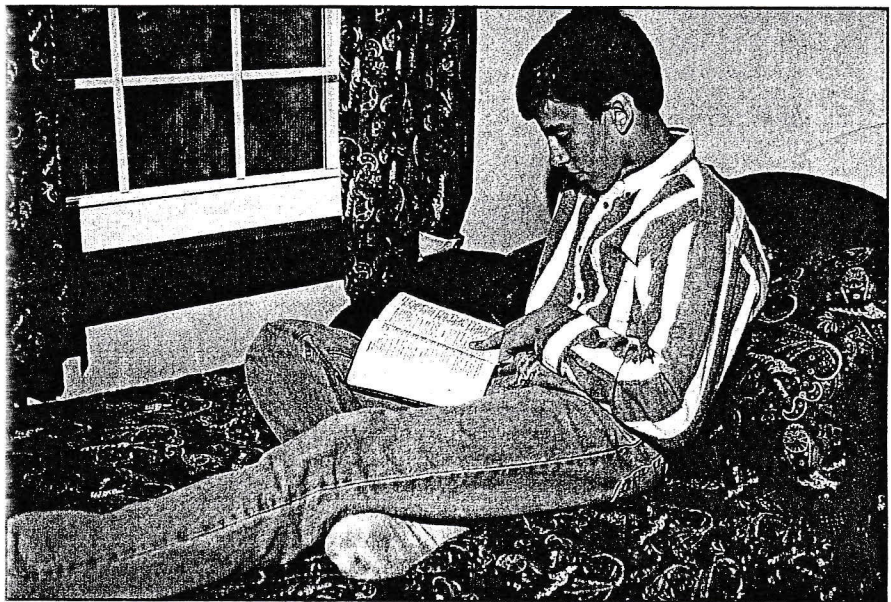
Consider what the following verses say about God’s great book—the Bible. Then answer the questions that follow.

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).**

**For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were car-**

**ried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).**

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power (1 Corinthians 2:4–5).**



1. What do these passages tell us about inspiration, the manner in which God gave the Holy Scriptures to us through human authors?

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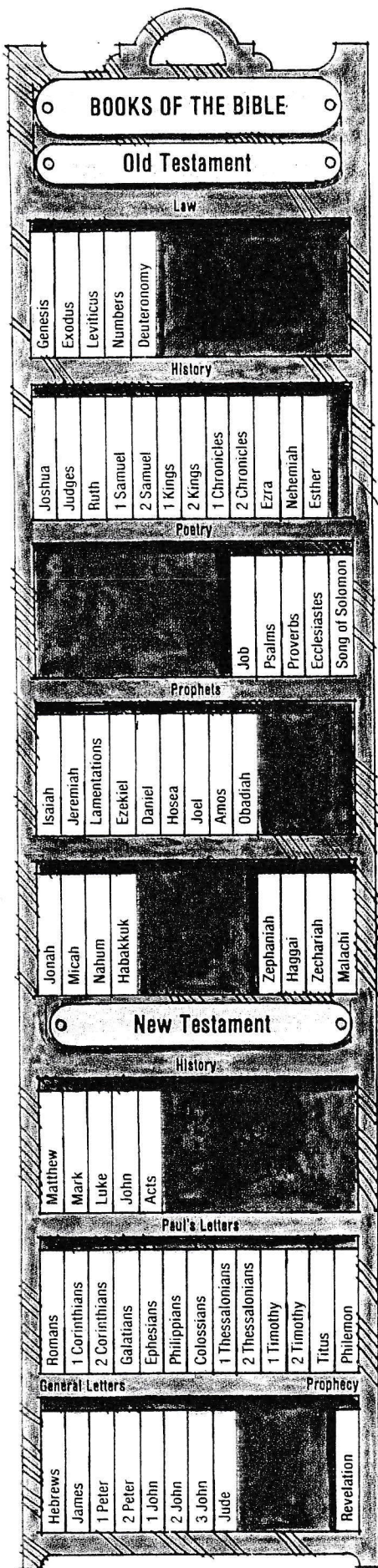
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2. Through the ages God revealed His messages to people in various ways. Why do you think He gave His Word to us in written form?

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**A LOOK AT THE BIBLE**

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Millions of copies have been printed and sold. All or parts of the Bible have been translated into more than a thousand languages. The Bible contains 66 separate books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. It contains nearly 1,200 chapters and almost 31,000 verses.

1. Look at the first verse of the New Testament (**Matthew 1:1**). Who is mentioned there as the one who separated the Old and New Testaments?

2. What is the most important message of the Bible (**John 3:16**)?

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3. The chart in the margin divides the books of the Bible according to the kind of writing they contain. Memorizing their names will help you find Bible references easily and quickly.

Use the chart to answer these questions:

a. Which five books of Moses tell of the life of God's people from creation through the wilderness wandering?

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b. Which four New Testament books tell the story of Jesus' life?

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c. Name the Old Testament hymnbook.

d. Which New Testament book tells what happened in the Christian church after Jesus ascended into heaven?

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## GOD'S WORD HAS POWER

*Old Smitty was the town drunk. He lived in a little shack behind the laundromat. He fixed toasters and other small appliances when he got around to it—which wasn't very often.*

*Once when Smitty was very sick—near death from drinking and not eating right—he began to read a Bible someone left in his hospital room.*

*He read the gospels and epistles several times.*

*Today Smitty is a changed man. He takes care of one of the churches in town, teaches Sunday school, helps anyone who needs him.*

*And if you ask him why the change, he'll say, "The Word did it."*

1. According to the following verse, what power does the Word (the Gospel) have?

**"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).**

2. For what purpose has God's written Word been given?

**"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).**

## POWER IN YOUR LIFE

You were changed, like Smitty, when you were baptized. And the changing goes on every day as the Spirit, through the Word, helps you repent, seek forgiveness, and live in service to God.

How might God help you through His Word in these situations?

1. Your best friend has let you down and told some secrets you shared.

2. You are facing a big Social Studies test—you are not sure you studied enough.

3. Your father or mother "grounded" you for something of which you are innocent.

4. You are told by the doctor that you have to have an operation very soon.

## TO REVIEW AND REMEMBER

Memorize the books of the Old and New Testament.