



The Bible isn't a book written by men about God,  
it's a book written by God through men.  
It is therefore completely unique and alive.

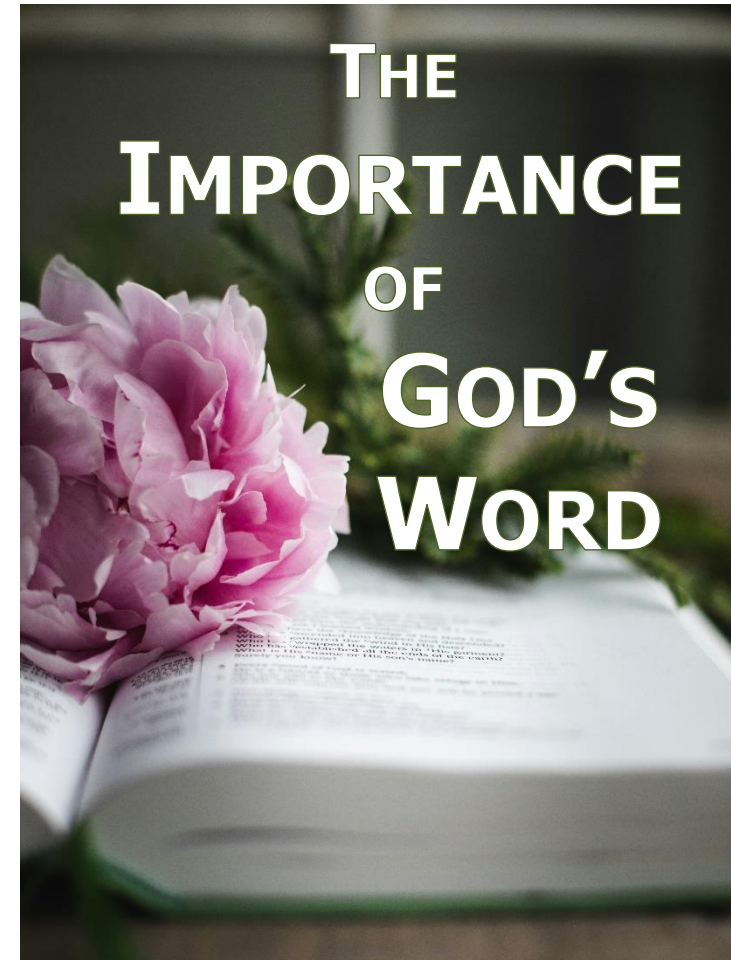
Take hold of its truth –  
understand it and settle it in your heart.  
Build a sure foundation for your life from it  
and discover its power  
to transform you.



**Katherine Hilditch** has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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'The Importance of God's Word'  
by  
Katherine Hilditch

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Unless otherwise indicated  
all Scripture quotations are taken from  
the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE)  
(Any words in brackets are not in the original text  
but are included to help understanding)

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## *The Importance of God's Word*

God's Word is the most important thing you will ever read. It is the only truth which can set you free if you allow it to do so. Never underestimate the importance of God's Word. Let's decide to give it its right place in our minds and our hearts and start to reap all the benefits which God has put in it. Get to know it and understand it. Mix it with faith and write it on your heart and then apply it to the way you think, speak, act and react and see how it will bless you and set you free, so you can then bless others and show them how to be set free too. Enjoy your love relationship with God and with Jesus through His Word and see how important it is in making an amazing difference in your life.

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## *Being Born-Again*

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you become born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart – "Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour."

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you'll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

## *THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD*

I wonder how you feel about reading the Bible? Do you enjoy it? Or does it seem dry and irrelevant? Well, read on and discover how important it is.

## *How the Word Was Written*

It is vital that we get this straight right at the beginning. The Bible is not a book written by men about God; it's a book written by God using men. 2 Peter 1:20-21 says that knowing this is of first importance – *'knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.'* No-one has a private interpretation of the Bible – it means what God says it means. And it was the Holy Spirit who spoke the truth, inspiring godly men to write it down.

## *It's True*

Psalm 119:160 says – *'All of your words are truth.'* And Jesus says in John 17:17 – *"Your word is truth."* God's Word is as true today as it was when God first inspired it. 1 Peter 1:23 says – *'having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and remains forever,'* Jesus compares the Word to a seed in many parables and here He says that it is an incorruptible seed. Even if we speak the Word and nothing changes, we can be assured that it wasn't the Word's fault. God's Word is truth and is incorruptible. We need to take hold of this and stand firm in it. God will always be faithful to what He has said and nothing can stand against it.

## *God & Jesus are the Word*

We also need to realise that God and Jesus are the Word. I know that doesn't seem to make sense, but John 1:1 says – *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'* God spoke creation into being with His words. And those words were His very self. Then John 1:14 says – *'The Word became flesh and lived amongst us.'* God sent His Word to live in a tiny human baby who would grow and win our salvation through His death and resurrection. Wow! Jesus was God's Word in the flesh. Think of that when you're reading the Bible. You're actually reading God and Jesus! That makes it alive.

## *Why is it Important to Read It*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that – *'Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.'* This gives us many reasons to read the Bible, culminating in us being complete in God and thus equipped for everything He calls us to do. Our new creation spirit, which God gave us when we were born-again, is already complete but our minds and emotions need to catch up. Romans 12:2 says- *'Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.'* If you want to be transformed, then you have to get into His Word and allow its truth to change the way you think, so renewing your mind. We will never get to the end of this on earth, but decide to start today and to keep going. The more you renew your mind, the more you will see God's Word bringing results in your life.

relationship with Him. It's about mixing the truth with faith and writing it on your heart. Yes, there needs to be an element of discipline involved, but reading God's Word should never be about works. You won't earn extra favour with God if you read the Bible – He's not more likely to answer your prayers and He won't love you any more than He already does. But if you do neglect reading it, then you will start to lose the sense of your relationship even though it still exists. God is excited when you read His Word because He knows how it can bless and help you and that is what He wants for you. Let us be excited too.

While we need to use some discipline, we don't want reading the Bible to be just something we should do. Better to read one verse that speaks to you and which you think about through the day, than a chapter which you forget as soon as you've finished reading it.

When you've read something, meditate on it – allow it to speak to your heart as well as your head. Psalms 1:2-3 says that the man is blessed whose – *'delight is in the LORD's law. On his law he meditates day and night.<sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper.'*

Keep thinking about the truth you've read through the day. You might say that's impossible, but God doesn't tell us to do things that are impossible. I'm sure you've found it is possible to worry all day even when you're at work or busy in other ways. Worrying is just negative meditation. You could discipline yourself to think about the Word you've read at set times through the day and if you're awake at night. Then turn your thoughts to it at random times too. You'll find you're meditating on it more and more. You may never get to the point where you're continually meditating on the Word but you'll find it to be increasingly in your thoughts.

## - Give You Power

God's Word is powerful because it is absolute truth spoken from the mouth of God Himself. When you speak God's Word out loud, you are speaking power.

The power of God's Word will work in many ways, including your health. Proverbs 4:20-22 says – *'My son, attend to my words. ... Keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body.'* God's Word is powerful enough to bring you health in mind and body as you believe it and stand on its truth. Start out on the adventure of faith in the power of God's Word and you will increasingly find it working for you. If you think it isn't true, then it won't work for you – faith is essential.

## - Be a Weapon You Can Use

Yes, God's Word is a weapon. When Satan tempted Jesus, He didn't argue with him or try to persuade him to think differently – He simply quoted the Word and it was enough to silence the devil. We have that same weapon. As you get more and more of God's truth settled in your heart, the more of His Word you have available to use as you fight anything that comes against you. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to - *'Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.'* Take it and use it and see its power at work.

## How to Study the Word

When you read the Bible, remember that it's not about doing your duty – it's about your relationship with God and with Jesus. It's not about getting your two chapters a day done so you can tick them off – it's allowing God to speak to you to deepen your

(To read more about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet. To read more about renewing your mind read my booklet 'Be Transformed'. To read more about your new perfect spirit read my booklet 'Spirit, Soul and Body'.)

So let's look at some of the ways the Bible can help you as you renew your mind. God's Word will –

## - Deepen Your Relationship with God & Jesus

John 3:16 says – *'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.'* The ultimate purpose of Jesus coming to earth was to give us eternal life. And He explained what that means in John 17:3 – *"This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ."* Jesus defines eternal life as knowing God and Himself, and not just as head knowledge but knowing them personally in a real love relationship and experiencing that relationship in this life.

All relationships need communication for them to deepen. So we need to be in communication with God and with Jesus. And the main way we do this is through His Word. As we renew our minds in it, we will inevitably get to know both God and Jesus better. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says – *'we also thank God without ceasing that when you received from us the word of the message of God, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, God's word, which also works in you who believe.'* We know God can speak to us directly as well, but it's important to check that what we're hearing is from God, and the way to do this is by seeing if it agrees with the Word. If it doesn't, then it's not God speaking – it's either your own thoughts or Satan. Don't waste time worrying about it, just turn your focus onto God's Word.

## - Give You Wisdom

There are many verses in the Bible where God says His wisdom is in His Word. Psalm 19:7 says – *'The LORD's covenant is sure, making wise the simple.'* If you need wisdom, go to the Word, not to your own ideas or to what other people are saying.

## - Help You Discern What's Going On

Hebrews 4:12 says that – *'the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit'* As a born-again believer you have a brand-new perfect spirit. But in your soul (your mind, will and emotions) you still have your old ways of thinking, speaking, acting and reacting. This is what we are told to renew. The Word is alive and able to show you when your thoughts, words and actions are coming from your spirit so you can continue in them, and when they are just coming from your own soul.

## - Help You Know the Truth and be Set Free

These are some wonderful, exciting words that Jesus spoke in John 8:31-32 to people who believed in Him – *"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* Do you want to be set free from stuff that has a hold over you, be it thought patterns or fears or ways of talking or acting? Here's your answer. But for the truth in God's Word to set you free, you have to understand it and believe it. Then you can walk into freedom.

### **Make It Your Own Revelation**

When you hear the truth from someone else, you need to make it your own revelation. After speaking with Jesus, the woman at

the well in Samaria told the people in her city about Him and all He had said. They came to Jesus to hear Him for themselves. Then they said these words to the woman in John 4:42 – *"Now we believe, not because of your speaking; for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."* When someone shares from God's Word with you, go to the Bible yourself and look it up. Make it your own revelation so you can then say "I know that ..." instead of "Someone told me that ..."

### **Write It On Your Heart**

Write the truth of God's Word on your heart. Proverbs 3:1&3 says – *'My son, don't forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments ... <sup>3</sup> Write them on the tablet of your heart.'* Psalm 45:1 then tells us how to do this – *'My heart overflows with a noble theme. I recite my verses for the king. My tongue is like the pen of a skilful writer.'* It's our tongue that is the pen we need to use to write the truth on our heart. Speak God's Word out loud and it will settle in your heart. The more you do it, the deeper it will settle. And the deeper it settles, the easier it is for it to set you free.

### **Mix It With Faith**

And mix the truth with faith. Hebrews 4:2 says of some people who heard the truth – *'the word they heard didn't profit them, because it wasn't mixed with faith by those who heard.'* Keep writing the truth of God's Word on your heart by speaking it out loud and you will find that your faith in that truth will grow. Romans 10:17 says that – *'faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.'* When you speak God's Word out loud, your ears hear the truth of the words you are saying and faith starts to come in your heart.