

# Walk with God 2009

Teleconference – 1/6, 1/13, 1/20 and 1/27/09



## *Week 2 – “Taking God at His Word”*

God’s Word is His message to mankind. Through it He reveals Himself and teaches how people should live a truly meaningful and fulfilled life. The Bible is the widest ranging most comprehensive manual ever written. While being the most widely published, distributed and read book in history, it is still greatly misunderstood and often taken for granted.

Here are some facts about the Bible. The Bible we use today was written over a 1500 year span (from about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 100) by over 40 authors from many walks of life (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars) on 3 different continents. It is comprised of 66 books divided into two main sections. The Old Testament (or Covenant) has 39 books and was all written before the birth of Jesus. The second section or New Testament (or Covenant) has 27 books and tells the story of Jesus’ life and what happened after His death.

God’s Word is a living dynamic book, a love story full of suspense, drama, humor, poetry, and future telling. Sometimes your reading will be riveting with excitement and sometimes almost overwhelming in detail. As you spend more time reading and studying, you will understand the reasons for both.

Think about this - could you imagine being asked to write a one paragraph story that summarizes your life? The allotted space would seem woefully inadequate to catch the meaningfulness and complexity of who you really are and all your experiences.

In the same way, to look at God’s Word, the Bible, as just a history book would miss the whole point. What has been written is only a fraction of the infinite volumes that could have been written about God’s dealings with man.

What is the point of this in our lives today? This amazing book is designed to unveil a carefully crafted message to those who will hear it and will answer the three main questions that have puzzled man from the beginning to time: How did I get here?, Who am I?, and Why am I here? While the Bible is not an unabridged history of the universe, it does answer these questions, tells the story of God’s interaction with mankind, and will guide us in our relationship with Him.

This is a key point for us to understand, which is in order to live for God it is vital to spend time in His Word, but remember knowing the Word does not mean you will know Him. If you wanted to get to know your friend better, would you go down to the local bookstore and pick up a book on friends? By reading, you may pick up valuable insight and understand some things about your friend’s behaviors, but you only get to really know your friend when you spend time with him or her.



Always remember, the passages of the Bible are a strategic, masterful, communication designed to lead you into and through a life with God. Be sure to invite Him to be involved in your reading time. Every time you pick up God's Word to read it, realize that He IS his Word so you are not just spending time learning new things, you are spending Time with your Father. Also, consider that you need Him to reveal the spiritual meaning of what you read for your life, so ask Him to do that before you begin reading.

The importance of knowing God's Word (and using it) is exemplified at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After fasting for 40 days and nights, satan tempted. Imagine the intensity of that moment! Jesus was at His very weakest but he did not try to fight with satan, he knew the only powerful and effective weapon in this battle was God's Word – the Holy Sword against evil. As satan and his demons come against you on a daily basis, it is very important to not only study and learn God's Word, but use it as a weapon in battle.

Here are some tools to start with in your decision to walk with God in 2009:

**Questions:**

1) When would be the best time of day for me to get alone with God and read His Word?

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2) What type of Bible Study approach do I want to use?

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3) When your reading ask "what is this passage saying about my life and how can I apply it"?

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**Action Steps:**

1) Review the "Tools" below and write down your plan to study the bible for 2009

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**Commitment:**

Write a short prayer asking God to help you with your personal study of His Word in 2009

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**Additional Resources:** [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

## **Walking with God – Tools**

**The following tool is designed to help set your mind on God.**

**Review the following ways to study Gods Word and pick the one you feel best with using this year. Additionally, as you study the Bible, write down versus that are impactful to you and review these each day as promises for your life from God.**

- **Reading Through the Bible** – There are many “Read through the Bible” in a Year guides available on the web. Some provide a blend of passages from different areas to balance your daily diet. Find one and get started.
- **Word or Topical Study** – When there is a word or topic you want to know more about go to a site like [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and use their resources to guide you through scriptures on that subject.
- **Studying a Book** – Look for an outline of that book and some background information. Read the book through once and then reread and themes will begin to surface. The more repetition the more the book will seem to open.
- **Studying a Verse** – Read the verse and some surrounding verses to understand the context. Then focus on the verse by reading it several times focusing on different words in the passage. You can also use word study resources to define words in the original languages.
- **Bible Memorization** – When you find a verse that is meaningful to you, write it out in your journal or a piece of paper and then memorize it. This will be a resource you will draw on throughout your life.

**Scriptures for my life:**

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