THE CORNERSTONE
OF OUR FAITH

JESUS CHRIST
THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE
EPHESIANS 2:20

Sharpening Your Spiritual Sword
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Paul in his encouraging epistle to the Ephesians refers to the Word of God as “the sword of the Spirit” (6:17). In this study we will learn how to properly and powerfully use this sword.

It was Christ Himself who demonstrated for us how to make use of our spiritual sword. When tempted in the wilderness by the devil, Christ responded to the devil’s every attempt with an “it is written.”

If we desire to defeat the devil, face our foes, encounter our enemies, overcome our obstacles and subdue every situation, we need to know how to use our weapon, our spiritual sword.
The blessed old book, the Bible, is unparalleled in its reach and unmatched in its relevance. It out looks, out lifts, out leads, and out lasts every other book in the history of our human pilgrimage. The Bible is the book above all books.

The Bible has been described by the acronym BASIC INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING EARTH. The Bible is the most meaningful, moving, and magnificent message ever given to man. To those who are lost, it is a message of salvation; to those who are bound, it is a message of deliverance. To those who are burdened, it is a message of relief, to those who are in battle, it is a message of courage. To those who are discouraged, it is a message of faith; and to those who are helpless, it is a message of help.

The blessed old book, the Bible, is not like any other book. Other books can provide information. Only the Bible, the Word of God, can provide transformation. You have never heard of anyone saying, “I was an alcoholic until I found a book on history, and it transformed my life.” You have never heard anyone claim, “My life was falling apart until I read this book on science.” You have, however, heard of an alcoholic who picked up his Bible and then put down his bottle.
Every other book ever penned pales when compared to the Bible, the Word of God. When compared to the Bible, the literary genius of Shakespeare is reduced to mere chicken scratch made with broken chalk produced by an unlearned infant. The Bible is the book above all books. Here are two reasons why.

_Because of What It Is_

The Bible is the book above all books because of what it is. The Bible is the infallible, inerrant, inspired Word of God. It does not just contain the word of God, as some would assert. It is the word of God.

“All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for Instruction in righteousness…”

(2 Timothy 3:16, KJV).

The Bible is a love letter written to express the very heart of God. It is God’s self-disclosure, it the Divine communicating with dust through the medium of words. It is nothing less than the words of the thrice holy God of eternity.

Psalms 19:7 refers to the Word of God as a “perfect law.” The Hebrew word for “law” is Torah. It basically means, “divine instruction or teaching.” It points to the didactic nature of Scripture. It is God’s instruction to man. The Bible is the book for you if you want to know how to:

- Live life on its highest plain
- Deal with personal issues
- Improve your relationships
- Treat your neighbor
- Deal with your enemies
- Walk
- Work
- Witness
- Worship
You find instructions in the Bible, the Word of God. The Hebrew word for “perfect” is *tamiym* (taw-meem'), which basically means “whole, complete, or sufficient.” It is a word of comprehensiveness. It is a way of saying the Scriptures lack nothing; they cover everything God intended to reveal to man. It is our comprehensive source from God of what His will is for our lives.

Sir Walter Scott, a famous British novelist and poet, on his death bed said to his secretary, “Bring me the book.” His secretary thought of the thousand volumes of books in Scott’s library and asked, “Which book?” To which Scott answered, “The Book, the Bible, the only book for a dying man.”

The Bible was written by 40 different men of various backgrounds over a period of over 1,500 years. Yet, it is a collection of 66 books that make up one harmonious volume of truth. Its doctrines are holy; its precepts are binding; and its testimonies are true. Wise is the person who reads it thoroughly, keeps it intentionally, follows it entirely, and obeys it completely. The Bible is the book above all books because of what it is.

*Because of What It Does*

The Bible is the book above all books because it saves,

> “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls”

(James 1:21, ESV).

The Bible is the book above all books because the Bible has saving power. Getting in the Word and allowing the Word to get in us brings salvation to those who are lost, brings light to those who are stumbling around in spiritual darkness and provides eternal enrichment for those spiritually impoverished by Satan and sin. In a word, the Bible saves!
This Bible saves no matter how dark the stain of sin. The Bible saves no matter how low you have sunk in your disobedience. The Bible saves no matter how long you have remained in your undone condition.

The universal need of our humanity is to be made right with the One who made us. There is only one book ever written that has the answers to how to make that possible. A book of poetry can inspire us, but it can’t save us. A book of history may inform us, but it can’t save us. A book on science can instruct us, but it can’t save us. If you want to be saved, you must go to the Bible, the Word of God.

The Bible is the book above all books because it not only saves, it sustains. Getting in the Bible and allowing it to get in you has a way of blessing the burdened, comforting those in crisis, and strengthening those in struggles.

Many who have heard the call from the distant shore and recognized it would soon be their turn to cross that chilled stream called death. They have found comfort and courage in reading the Word of God. There has been many who found the word of God to be an anchor while they were on life’s stormy seas. The Word of God has braced many whose spirits were being buffeted by the strong headwinds of grief and bereavement.

The Bible is the indisputable and indispensable book above all books. Its author is God, its subject is Christ, and its message is hope for this low land of sin and sorrow. We need to hear its message, heed its warnings, obey its commands, trust its promises, and share its contents.

God has revealed Himself to us in the blessed old book, the Bible. We must always consider its trustworthiness and commit to its truthfulness. The Bible is the book above all books.
Discussion Questions

1. In what ways is the message of the Bible meaningful to you?

2. In what ways have you used the Bible to defeat discouragement?

3. In what ways can the Bible help us overcome temptation?

4. What are some things God has disclosed about Himself in the Bible?

5. What can the Bible do that no other book can do?

6. What are ways we can show appreciation for the Bible, the love letter we have from God?