

Developing a Heart for God

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I. Introduction.

A. The Bible is a book that is God's message to man through the person of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

B. God gave us the Bible because it is the special revelation of God's divine truth. (Psalm 119:155, 1 Corinthians 2:14)

II. The Bible is unique

A. It is God making a bid for man.

B. Even the heroes have their faults revealed.

C. The Bible was written for our comfort. (Romans 15:4)

D. The Bible has an all or nothing concept.

III. The importance of the Bible and salvation.

A. The written Word tells us of the living Word. (Revelation 19:13)

B. There is no other name by which men will be saved other than Jesus. (Acts 4:12)

C. The word effectually works in us salvation. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

D. You have to have faith in the Bible. (Hebrews 4:12, 6:17)

E. The Bible teaches that we will continue to sin and have provision for forgiveness—God's word will convict us and call us to make things right with God and man. (1 John 1:9)

F. The Bible teaches us how to lead a man to Christ. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27, John 1:12)

G. A man is saved by the Word. (1 Peter 1:23)

IV. We grow through the Word. (2 Peter 3:18, 1 Peter 2:2)

A. This growth starts from the thoughts. (Proverbs 23:7, Mark 7:21-23)

B. We are supposed to live from the fruit of the thoughts. (Matthew 12:34)

C. Thoughts reflect the soul. (2 Peter 2:8)

D. The Word helps us to sustain against the flesh. (1 Peter 2:11, Matthew 7:24)

E. We seek to teach and represent Christ.

F. Our thought content changes by our intake of the Word of God. (Matthew 22:29, 1 John 2:14, Psalm 119:111)

G. We can actually tell whether we are growing. (1 Corinthians 3:1-5, 2 Corinthians 4:16)

V. We disciple through the Word.

A. You can spend your life raising up disciples who will fill all the fields of ministry that you want to fill.

B. We are to sew the Word. (Mark 4:14, 1 Peter 4:11, 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

Application questions

1. In what three ways does the Bible help to develop a heart for God? Which way strikes you the most?

2. What verses would you use to show a man the plan of salvation for his life? What about these verses accomplish this?

3. Our inner thoughts are changed by the Word. What struggles are you facing right now? Use a Scripture subject index or search online to find several verses in the area you are struggling. Memorize one and write it below.
