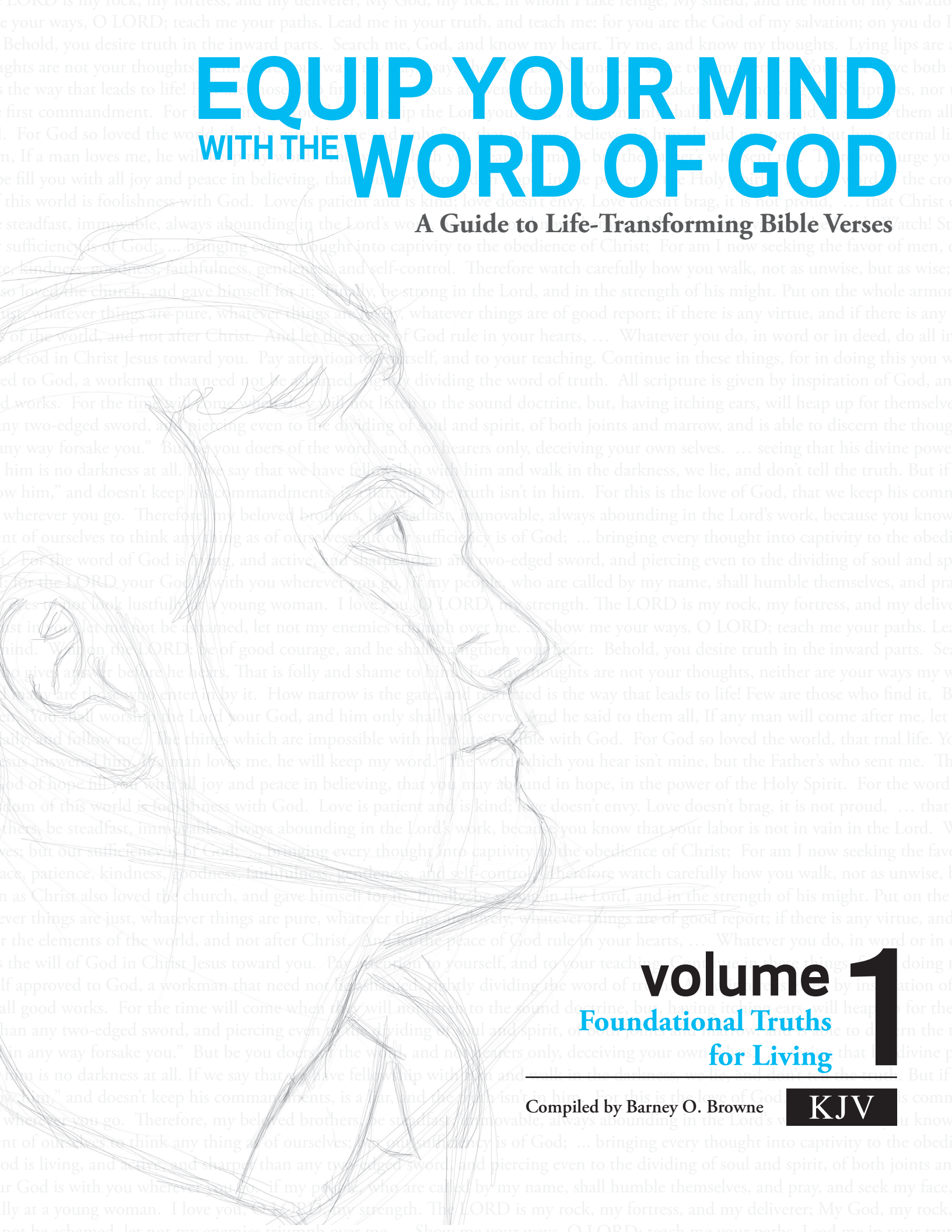


EQUIP YOUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD

A Guide to Life-Transforming Bible Verses



volume 1
Foundational Truths
for Living

Compiled by Barney O. Browne

KJV

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

A Guide to Life-Transforming Bible Verses

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

2 Samuel 22:31

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: . . . Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:1, 17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 11:28

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:9–11

Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalms 119:33–37

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:13

**Equip Your Mind
with the Word of God**

Volume 1

Foundational Truths for Living

**King James Version
eBook Edition**

Barney O. Browne

MindEquip
www.mindequip.com

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God
Volume 1
Foundational Truths for Living
KJV eBook Edition

Copyright © 2009 by Barney O. Browne. All rights reserved solely by the author. No part of this eBook may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the author. If you purchased this eBook from the MindEquip website shown below or if a legal license for this eBook was transferred to you, then you are the licensee and you hold the license for this copy of the eBook. The author then gives you permission to load it onto those computers and eBook reading devices that you personally use, as well as onto those that reside in your home for your family's personal use.

Note to you the reader: If you did not purchase this eBook PDF file directly from the MindEquip website shown below, and if you are not using one of the legal copies of the eBook exactly as described above, and if a legal licensee of this eBook did not transfer his or her license to you, then this is an illegal copy of the eBook. If this is an illegal copy, please go to the MindEquip website shown below where you can securely purchase and download a legal license for this eBook. The introductory price for this eBook is only \$4.95.

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, King James Version (the 1769 edition of the 1611 Authorized Version).

The background Bible verses on the outside covers of this book are from the "World English Bible" (WEB). This is a Public Domain Modern English translation of the Holy Bible published by Rainbow Missions, Inc.

Cover design and inside illustrations by Daniel Williams.

ISBN: 978-0-9801399-4-5

Published in the United States of America.

This book may be ordered from the website below.

MindEquip
www.mindequip.com

Contents

<i>Dedication</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	1

Section 1 The Bible

Introduction to Section 1	21
Chapter 1 What the Bible Says About Itself	23
Chapter 2 The Wisdom and Power of God's Word	35
Chapter 3 The Sufficiency of God's Word	45
Chapter 4 Trusting and Obeying God's Word	57

Section 2 What the Bible Says About God

Introduction to Section 2	69
Chapter 5 God—The Father	71
Chapter 6 God—Jesus Christ	81
Chapter 7 God—The Holy Spirit.....	111
Chapter 8 The Trinity	121
Chapter 9 What Jesus Christ Says About Himself.....	131
Chapter 10 God is Eternal	139
Chapter 11 God Knows the Future	145
Chapter 12 God's Awareness of Your Life	151
Chapter 13 God's Character	159
Chapter 14 God's Claim to Be the One True God.....	171
Chapter 15 God's Desire for a Relationship with You.....	177
Chapter 16 God's Forgiveness	183
Chapter 17 God's Grace	191
Chapter 18 God's Holiness.....	199
Chapter 19 God's Judgment, Wrath, and Punishment	205
Chapter 20 God's Justice.....	221
Chapter 21 God's Love	233
Chapter 22 God's Mercy.....	243

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

Chapter 23	God's Patience	249
Chapter 24	God's Power Over the Universe	253
Chapter 25	God's Promises	267
Chapter 26	God's Protection	283
Chapter 27	God's Righteousness	291
Chapter 28	God's Warnings	301
Chapter 29	God's Ways and Paths	311
Chapter 30	What Displeases God	319
Chapter 31	What Pleases God	331

Section 3 What the Bible Says About Human Beings

Introduction to Section 3	341	
Chapter 32	The Miracle of Human Life	343
Chapter 33	You Are a Physical and Spiritual Being	347
Chapter 34	God Values All Human Life	357
Chapter 35	The Inner Person Matters Most to God	365
Chapter 36	All Humans Are Born with a Sinful Nature	375
Chapter 37	We Each Choose Where We Will Spend Eternity	385
Chapter 38	Your Heart	395
Chapter 39	Your Soul	415
Chapter 40	Your Mind	423
Chapter 41	The Holy Spirit Lives Within Christians	431

Appendices

Appendix 1	What It Means to Equip Your Mind	439
Appendix 2	Why It Is Important to Equip Your Mind	443
Appendix 3	How to Equip Your Mind	449
Appendix 4	How the Word of God Can Teach You	465
Appendix 5	Do Not Be Misled by Darwin's Theory of Evolution	479
Appendix 6	Trusting the Bible—A Self-Test for Christians	501

<i>Notes</i>	505
--------------------	-----

Dedication

To Jesus Christ
My Lord
My Savior
The Messiah
The Son of God
The Lamb of God
The First and the Last
The Alpha and the Omega
The Beginning and the End
The King of Kings and Lord of Lords

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4–6

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:16–17

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28–30

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:18–20

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:44–48

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:16–18

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:38–40

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 18:37

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:7–9

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 1:17–18

Preface

At the age of forty I became a Christian and began to study the Bible. Slowly but surely my view of the Bible began to change. I came to the realization that the Bible was much more than I originally thought it to be. I became aware of the overwhelming evidence proving beyond any reasonable doubt that the Bible is truly of supernatural origin and that its content has been almost perfectly preserved from ancient times to the present. I learned that although we are separated from the original manuscripts of the Bible by thousands of years, cultural differences, and language differences, we have available to us reliable and accurate Bibles that communicate what God wants us to know.

The following evidences convinced me that the Bible is truly the Word of God:

1. *Regarding integrity:* Although the Bible was written by approximately forty individuals over a period of more than 1,500 years, its consistent message, verifiable accuracy, and timeless wisdom clearly reflect integrity of design. This amazing feat is not something that human beings could accomplish without God's divine involvement.
2. *Regarding science:* Though not a book on science, the Bible's teachings are consistent with what we observe in the physical world around us. Neither biblical creation nor the theory of evolution has been proven by science. However, new discoveries that are scientifically verifiable are far more consistent with the Bible's account of creation than with the theory of evolution. Appendix 5 looks deeper into the scientifically outdated theory of evolution that continues to be widely promoted and vehemently defended in our culture.
3. *Regarding human beings:* The more that I study the Bible, observe people, and look within myself, the more that I discover that the Bible explains human nature and behavior far more accurately than man's wisdom does.
4. *Regarding predictive prophecy:* Only the Bible accurately describes events hundreds and sometimes thousands of years before they occur. The Bible's prophecies fall into two categories: those that have already been fulfilled and those that have yet to be fulfilled. Unlike the prophecies of man, none of the Bible's prophecies have been proven wrong. Only someone who is not

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

bound by the dimension of time as we are and who is able to see the future could have authored the hundreds of precisely fulfilled prophecies of the Bible. God is that someone. He tells us in the book of Isaiah:

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it. *Isaiah 46:9–11*

5. *Regarding archeology:* Again and again new discoveries demonstrate the accuracy of the Bible's accounts of historical people, places, and events. Because of the Bible's proven accuracy, many archeologists rely on the Bible to guide them to sites of historical interest.
6. *Regarding wisdom:* The more that I trust the Bible's teachings, the more that I realize that the Bible provides the best framework for understanding this world, human nature, myself, and what to expect in life. The more that I observe and experience how life on earth really works, the more apparent it is that the wisdom of the Bible is far superior to the wisdom of man.

God uses the above evidences to authenticate His involvement in authoring the Bible and to demonstrate the Bible's accuracy and trustworthiness. When I finally realized these things, I made the decision that I would strive to trust what the Bible says beyond the wisdom of this world and even beyond my own thinking. Although I was a skeptic when I originally began investigating the Bible, I gradually discovered, and continue to experience, that the Bible is fully trustworthy.

Realizing the trustworthiness of the Bible and committing my life to the Lord Jesus Christ has been life-transforming for me in several ways:

- *First*, the Bible taught me about myself, God, how God views sin (the breaking of His laws), and His great love for me and all people. I have found that the Bible's teachings about human beings are fully consistent with the reality that I observe in the world around me and within me. I cannot say the same for those ideas of man that are contrary to the Bible. God demonstrated His amazing love for us when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ,

into the world to pay the full penalty for our sins. The Bible clearly teaches that in order to spend eternity with God we each must place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, and become obedient to Jesus Christ. Realizing these truths changed how I viewed everything.

- *Second*, I learned that the Bible presents a picture of reality—God’s *big picture*—that is consistent with the real world and explains, in a coherent way, all that I observe and experience in life. This biblical way of approaching and understanding the world—a *biblical worldview*—allows one to make sense out of this imperfect and trouble-filled reality in which we live. It also allows true followers of Jesus Christ to be joyful, thankful, and hopeful in the midst of troubles because God’s big picture—true reality—does not end with our physical death.
- *Third*, I learned that for those who choose to put their faith in and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises regarding eternal life with Him. God has been faithful in keeping His promises and fulfilling His prophecies in the past. Christ-followers can trust that God will be true to His Word in keeping all that He has promised them. They can also be confident that God, in His perfect timing, will bring to pass His yet-unfulfilled prophecies.
- *Fourth*, I learned that the Bible contains everything we need for living our lives in the way that God knows is best, both for us and for the people whose lives we touch. We each must decide whom we will trust for wisdom and guidance. I have observed, experienced, and finally learned that any worldly wisdom that is contrary to the Bible leads to foolishness and is harmful to one’s soul. I now strive to trust the Bible above the wisdom of this world and above my own thinking.

This book did not start with a vision to publish a book. It began with a problem. A major struggle I faced as I began studying the Bible and applying it to my life involved my memory. I was continually losing track of many Bible verses that I wanted to remember and apply. This book began as a personal project to help me learn and apply those Bible verses that had special meaning to me. I found it very helpful to use my personal computer as a tool to help me topically organize, retrieve, review, and study my growing collection of Bible verses. The next step was to print a loose-leaf paper version of my Bible-verse collection. This allowed me to easily read and meditate on the Bible verses I had collected. Although my

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

family and some friends expressed interest in what I had assembled, I did not seriously consider the publishing path. My plan was simply to continue adding verses and topics to aid me in my Bible study. If left to myself, this is where my Bible-verse collection would be today.

Looking back, I believe that God worked through life's circumstances, my family, and several friends to change my thinking and provide me with the encouragement, support, help, and prayers that made another path possible. During the summer of 2002 my wife, Heidi, and I made the decision to turn my Bible-verse collection into a self-published book. Our plan was to publish a book that presented Bible verses in a format that could be used in a variety of ways. I have listed many of these ways on the back cover of this book. Our desire is that many people will find this book to be a valuable companion to their Bibles and that it will help them to develop a biblical worldview and to grow in spiritual maturity—thinking and living more like Jesus Christ and less like this world.

Barney Browne
December 2009

If you would like to send me your comments regarding this book, please go to my website below and select the *Contact* tab near the top of the screen.

Thank you.
Barney Browne

MindEquip
www.mindequip.com

Introduction

Welcome to the *Equip Your Mind with the Word of God* book series. Each book in this series presents Bible verses within topics that are of utmost importance to every human being. The goal of each chapter's page design is to present Scripture text that is easy on the eyes to read, encourages focusing and meditating on the Scripture paragraphs, and has ample space for personal notes. These design features enable this book to be used as a topical Bible-verse reference, as a devotional book, or as a small-group Bible-study resource. My desire is that this book will be a helpful window into the timeless truths of the Word of God.

The primary goal of this Introduction is to define several important terms and concepts. Accurately understanding these terms and concepts is foundational to understanding and properly applying the truths found within this book.

The God of the Bible

This book, Volume 1, focuses on what the Bible says about itself, God, and human beings. When I use the word *God* with a capital "G" in this book, I am always referring to the one true God, the God of the Bible. His attributes are clearly revealed throughout the Bible. Section 2 of this book focuses on what the Bible says about God. In this world it is quite common for people to use the word *God* to refer to someone other than the God of the Bible. If the attributes of the one they are referring to as *God* are the same as God's attributes as presented in the Bible, then they are in fact speaking about the God of the Bible. If, on the other hand, the attributes are not the same, then when they use the word *God* they are in reality speaking about someone else. For this reason, it is very important in our communications with others that we clarify what we mean when we use the word *God*.

The Lord Jesus Christ

In this book I often refer to Jesus Christ as the *Lord Jesus Christ* to acknowledge His ruling position over all creation. *Noah Webster's 1828 First Edition of the American Dictionary of the English Language*¹ first defines *Lord* as follows: "1. A master; a person possessing supreme power and authority; a ruler; a governor." Christians view Jesus Christ not only as their Savior, but also as their Lord and Master.

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

The following Bible verses help us to understand how God wants us to view the Lordship of Jesus Christ:

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
Hebrews 1:1-3

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. *Revelation 19:16*

Terms Referring to the Word of God

For the benefit of those who are new to reading the Bible, I need to mention the different terms often used to refer to the *Word of God*. In this book the following terms are used interchangeably: *Bible*, *Scriptures*, *Word of God*, *God's Word*, and *His Word*. When I refer to several adjacent verses, I interchangeably use the terms *Bible verses* or *Bible passage*.

Wisdom of God vs. Wisdom of This World

The terms *wisdom of God*, *wisdom of this world*, and *wisdom of man* are used frequently throughout this book. I use the phrase *wisdom of God* to refer to God's principles, ways, and wisdom as presented in the Bible. I use the phrases *wisdom of this world* and *wisdom of man* interchangeably. These refer to man's ideas, reasonings, and speculations that conflict with God's principles, ways, and wisdom. The word *world*, when used in the context of the wisdom of this world, refers to the secular and ungodly thinking of mankind and cultures throughout history. At any point in time our thinking will be based on either the wisdom of God or the wisdom of this world. Many problems, temptations, and difficult choices that Christians face in life can be avoided by trusting in the wisdom of God found in the Bible rather than trusting in the wisdom of this world.

About the Chapter Introductions

As you read my chapter introductions you will notice that some of the same comments appear in multiple chapters. I have done this intentionally to allow the message of each chapter introduction to be independent of the other chapter introductions. My goal is that this book may be opened to any chapter, in any order, even after extended periods of time, and the chapter introduction will help prepare the reader for the chapter's Bible verses. In addition, this book is intended for a wide range of readers of all ages, including many who are new to the Bible. My hope is that this approach to chapter introductions will enhance the value of this book across its many applications and its wide variety of readers.

My comments in the chapter introductions and in the appendices reflect my perspectives and insights based on my current understanding of the Bible. Please keep in mind that I am not a Bible scholar. Rather, I am one who has learned to trust the Bible through the faithful teaching of many Bible teachers who themselves truly trust the Bible. In addition, my confidence and trust in the Bible has grown through my own study of the Bible and through my coming to realize that the Bible explains the world we live in and human beings far better than any other source. I acknowledge that I am continually learning what the Bible says and how to properly apply it to my life. I definitely do not have all the answers. That is why I continue to study the Bible and look to it above all else to find out how God wants me to view Him, this world, others, and myself. Please use my comments at the beginning of each chapter simply as starting points to introduce the chapter's topic. What is of primary importance is what God is saying through the Bible verses that are the essence of each chapter.

About the Quoted Bible Verses and Their Punctuation

I have chosen to use the following conventions when quoting Bible verses in this book. All quoted Bible verses are presented with their punctuation as it appears in the Bible. Those verses which are quoted within a paragraph, including their original punctuation marks, are enclosed within extra quotation marks. The verses themselves, along with all other quoted material embedded within text paragraphs, are italicized for readability. Those verses which are quoted as indented, stand-alone paragraphs are not enclosed in extra quotation marks. Their punctuation reflects exactly what is in the Bible. Where my quoted verse or passage represents only a portion of a quote in the Bible, you may notice quotation marks in the beginning of the quoted verse but not at the end. This

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

indicates that the actual quote continues into the next Bible verse, which was beyond what I chose to include in my book. For those verses that are quoted as stand-alone paragraphs, only the verse address is italicized. Finally, I have chosen to not split quoted Bible verses or passages across page boundaries. I want each quoted Bible verse or passage to be fully visible on a single page. It is my hope that these conventions will enhance the readability of this book.

Overview of the Appendices

I would like to introduce you to the appendices in the back of this book. The title of this book—*Equip Your Mind with the Word of God*—is worded as a call to personal action. It is partially based upon the following Bible verses:

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; *Ephesians 6:13–18*

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Timothy 3:16–17

I have included the following appendices for three reasons. First, I want to encourage all who read this book to be increasingly committed to equipping their minds with the Word of God. Second, I have designed these appendices with the goal of helping people equip their minds with the Word of God. Third, I hope that these appendices will be a useful resource to help readers protect themselves from self deception and from the deception that is so prevalent in the world around us. Both kinds of deception work to undermine people's trust in the Bible. This leads to havoc in people's lives, in families, and in nations. For these reasons I encourage you to explore each of these appendices.

Appendix 1: What It Means to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God—I share my perspective on this subject by answering five questions.

Appendix 2: Why It Is Important to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God—This appendix presents ten reasons why Christians should want their minds to be equipped with the Word of God.

Appendix 3: How to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God—In this appendix you will find eighteen action items to help you to successfully equip your mind with the Word of God.

Appendix 4: How the Word of God Can Teach You—Here you will find a list of ten ways that the Holy Spirit can use the Word of God in your life. In addition, this appendix presents a practical example of just one of the many ways that God can use His Word to equip and fortify your mind with important biblical truths and principles. I explain how viewing and meditating on a theme-based collection of Bible verses can grow your understanding of the Bible’s timeless truths. Seven theme-based collections of Bible verses from this and future volumes of this book series are included as usable examples.

Appendix 5: Do Not Be Misled by Darwin’s Theory of Evolution—Why would I include a discussion on the theory of evolution in a Bible-verse reference book? The reason is because Darwin’s theory of evolution has been used very effectively since 1859 to undermine people’s confidence in the Bible. In this appendix you will learn why the theory of evolution is scientifically outdated and why believing in evolution is just as faith-based as believing in the Genesis account of creation. In addition, I share with you several valuable tools and resources. These can help you to discover for yourself why the biblical creation account is consistent with the physical evidence and why the theory of evolution is not.

Appendix 6: Trusting the Bible—A Self-Test for Christians—This appendix is intended for everyone who proclaims to trust the Bible. An introduction briefly introduces and positions the “Self-Test.” The test itself is labeled *Thirty Important Questions*. It is designed to help Christians to better understand to what extent they are allowing the Word of God to guide their thoughts, words, and actions. This “Self-Test” questionnaire is designed to be used individually or within a small-group setting.

Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

This Book is Another Window into the Bible

Please consider this book to be another window into the Word of God. Please do not allow this book to take time away from your regular reading and studying of the Bible. Rather, may this book encourage you to read and study the Bible even more. It is my hope that this book will help you to discover more of God's timeless truths, equip your mind with them, and share them with others.

Section 1

The Bible



The Bible claims to be the actual Word of God. It teaches us about the holy God of the Bible, the human beings He created, and this world we live in. The Bible teaches us about God's love for us, man's sinful nature, the consequences of sin, and God's loving provision for bringing repentant human beings into an eternal relationship with Him. It explains the reality of heaven and hell, angels and demons, the widespread evil in this fallen world, and the great spiritual battle for the heart, mind, and soul of every human being. The Bible teaches us about the Lord Jesus Christ and His earthly mission to offer salvation to mankind. It gives us wisdom for living that is timeless and far wiser than the wisdom of man. The Bible teaches that God's Word is true and stands forever. Jesus prayed to God the Father in John 17:17: "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*"

Many people in our culture, including some who call themselves Christians, do not believe much of what the Bible says. Up until the age of forty, I believed that the Bible was simply a mixture of ancient history, myths, rigid rules, outdated values, human wisdom, and wishful thinking. When I finally began to earnestly study the Bible and investigate the evidence for its reliability, I realized how wrong I had been. The more that I study the Bible the more that I find it to be trustworthy.

God—the all-knowing, all-powerful, Creator of the universe—calls us to trust in Him and in His Word. It is then that we can begin to understand the holiness, righteousness, justice, and love of God. The Bible reveals to us our sin nature and how God views sin—the breaking of His laws. It teaches us how sinful people can be forgiven by God and welcomed into heaven if they put their faith in Jesus Christ who has paid the just penalty for their sins. Only by trusting the Bible's teachings can you truly come to know the loving God who created you. I pray that this book will help you to view God, yourself, other people, this world, life's troubles, and salvation through the lens of the Bible—the Word of God.

Chapter 1

What the Bible Says About Itself



All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

In the verse above, God is telling us that all Scripture—the entire Bible—is God-breathed. Although men wrote the words of the Bible, they were supernaturally directed by the Holy Spirit to pen what God wanted them to write. God wants us to confidently believe what the Bible says about itself—that it is truly the Word of God. Then the Holy Spirit will use the Bible to open the eyes of our understanding, transform our lives, and draw us deeper into a loving relationship with Him for eternity.

How we view and treat the Bible will significantly influence our understanding of God and our relationship with Him. It will determine how we view ourselves and other people. Our trust in the Bible will determine how we view this world and our understanding of how life on earth works. Our attitude toward the Bible will be foundational to how we make moment-by-moment choices. How we view and treat the Bible will determine the direction of our lives, how we touch the lives of everyone within our sphere of influence, and the role we allow God to have in our lives. This chapter presents Bible verses that tell us how God wants us to understand and view His Word.

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 4:2

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:5–7

**the
word of the LORD
is tried:**

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Deuteronomy 8:3

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalms 12:6

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Psalms 18:30

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7–11

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Psalm 33:4–5

**For the
word of the LORD
is right;
and all his works
are done in truth.**

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Psalm 119:1–2

For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

Psalm 119:89–91

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalm 119:130

Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

Psalm 119:137–138

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

Psalm 119:142

**Thy word is true
from the beginning:
and every one of thy
righteous judgments
endureth for ever.**

The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalm 119:144

Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

Psalm 119:151–152

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Psalm 119:160

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Psalm 138:2

Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 8:4–11

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Proverbs 30:5–6

**The grass withereth,
the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God
shall stand for ever.**

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:8

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10–11

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17–18

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24–25

**Jesus replied,
“You are in error
because you do not
know the Scriptures
or the power of God.**

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:26–27

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Matthew 22:29

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Matthew 24:35

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Mark 8:38

And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Mark 12:24

And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 4:3-4

**And Jesus
answered him,
saying, It is written,
That man shall not live
by bread alone,
but by every word
of God.**

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Luke 6:46-48

But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Luke 6:49

But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 11:28

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:25–27

**In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word
was with God,
and the Word
was God.**

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:44–48

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1–5

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

John 5:46–47

Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:67–68

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

John 12:47–50

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: . . . Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:1, 17

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11

**Sanctify them
through thy truth:
thy word is truth.**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:12–13

**So then faith
cometh by hearing,
and hearing by
the word of God.**

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4:1–2

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–22

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

**For the word of God
is quick, and powerful,**

...

**and is a discerner
of the thoughts and
intents of the heart.**

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 1:23–25

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2 Peter 1:19

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:20–21

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:1–3

**Blessed is he
that readeth,
and they that hear
the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things
which are written therein:
for the time is at hand.**

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:9–10

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18–19

Chapter 2

The Wisdom and Power of God's Word



Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Psalm 119:160

God has given us minds to reason with and amazing physical senses for experiencing and exploring our world. With these we are able to gain knowledge and wisdom regarding many things in life. However, in spite of man's extensive accumulated knowledge, it is clear that there are many areas where man's understanding is very limited. A few examples include: why the laws of nature are what they are, exactly how life functions at all levels, the complexity of the human mind, and the origin of DNA.

Man's wisdom is also very limited. As humans, we have a tendency to believe that our accomplishments are the result of our own efforts apart from God. Our tendency is also to trust our own thinking and that of "experts" above the Word of God. A truly wise person humbly recognizes that his or her abilities come from God and that God's wisdom is far beyond man's wisdom. A truly wise Christian is one who earnestly studies the Bible, prays for God's guidance, and then uses the Bible to test his or her thinking. For such a Christian, God then uses His Word to reveal His truth, impart His wisdom, and provide guidance for everyday living in this imperfect world.

The Bible not only contains God's truth and wisdom, but also is powerful in that God uses Scripture to accomplish amazing things in the lives of people. God uses His Word to reveal to people how they have sinned against Him by breaking His laws and what the penalty is for their sins. God uses the Bible to introduce people to the Lord Jesus Christ and to explain to them how they can be saved through Him. God uses His Word in the lives of Christians to teach, rebuke, correct, equip, strengthen, guide, protect, comfort, transform, mature, and bless them. To what extent are you allowing God to do these amazing things in your life through His Word?

Chapter 3

The Sufficiency of God's Word



According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter 1:3

In the verse above, God is proclaiming to us that He has made available to Christians everything they need for life and godliness. This includes, but is not limited to, God's mercy and grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit who dwells in all Christians, the fruits of the Spirit, the armor of God, the Bible, and prayer. Through these, God teaches, rebukes, corrects, equips, strengthens, guides, protects, comforts, encourages, transforms, matures, and blesses Christians.

God's Word contains all the truth and wisdom we need for living our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him. There are some subjects about which the Bible does not speak. However, where the Bible does speak about a subject, God calls Christians to trust what it says. We may at times find that a Bible passage is confusing, counterintuitive, or simply a message that we do not want to hear. However, nowhere in God's Word are we told that this justifies trusting the wisdom of this world or our own feelings above trusting the Bible. We may at times need help from spiritually mature Christians in understanding what the Bible means or in applying it correctly to our lives. Be sure to seek help from those who truly take the Bible seriously, who revere it, and who handle it faithfully and accurately. May the verses in this chapter lead you to trust the Word of God above the wisdom of man.

Chapter 4

Trusting and Obeying God's Word



**For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:
and his commandments are not grievous.**

1 John 5:3

The Bible verses in this chapter represent a call to every person to trust and obey the Bible. God, through the Bible, reveals to us who He is and what He stands for. He reveals to us His love for us, His values, His standards, His commands, His wisdom, and His desire for what is best for us. God tells us in the Bible how He wants us to view and treat His Word. He provides ample evidence that the Bible is, in fact, the Word of God and that it is true and accurate. I have listed some excellent resources in Appendix 5, item 10 for those who would like to explore the evidences supporting the trustworthiness of the Bible.

God reveals to us through the Bible everything we need to know in order to become Christians—spiritually reborn followers of the Lord Jesus Christ (I further explain what I mean by the term *Christian* in the introduction to this book). God clearly states in the Bible how He wants Christians to view Him, love Him, love others, and live their lives. If we truly desire to know God more fully, serve Him more faithfully, and glorify Him in how we live our lives, then we need to earnestly trust, study, and obey the Word of God. May God use the verses in this chapter to draw you closer to Him.

Section 2

What the Bible Says About God



The God of Christianity is the God of the Bible. Throughout the Bible God teaches us about His character traits, His values, His standards, His laws, His power, and the nature and extent of His love for all people. God reveals to us in the Bible the kind of personal relationship that He desires to have with every human being for eternity.

The “God of the Old Testament” is the same as the “God of the New Testament”. God is unchanging, and His character traits are consistently reflected in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Many people claim to know and follow God. However, if what they believe about God contradicts what He says about Himself in the Bible, then in reality they are following something else or someone else. It is unreasonable and self-deceiving for people to consider themselves followers of the God of the Bible and then to base their understanding of God on alternative sources that contradict the Bible.

Do you desire to know who the God of the Bible really is? Do you desire to enter into a personal relationship with your Creator for eternity even if it means submitting your life to Jesus Christ? Are you already a spiritually reborn follower of Jesus Christ who desires to more faithfully honor, serve, and represent Him? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then it is essential that you trust what God says about Himself in the Bible. It is my desire that the chapters in this section will be helpful to everyone who truly desires to know God better and draw closer to Him.

Chapter 6

God—Jesus Christ



For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1 Corinthians 15:3–5

The following three questions are perhaps the most important questions that a human being can ask:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
2. What does the Lord Jesus Christ desire for me and from me?
3. What role will I allow the Lord Jesus Christ to have in my life?

Questions 1 and 2 are not asking for people’s opinions. They represent a call to discover the truth—the unchanging reality—about Jesus Christ. They cannot be correctly answered by relying on human feelings or wishful thinking. The true answers to these two questions do not come from within you but from outside of you. God has already answered these questions for you in the Bible. Do not believe any answers to questions 1 and 2 that differ from what the Bible says. God’s Word alone is the source of truth regarding Jesus Christ.

Question 3 is different from questions 1 and 2 in that the answer comes from within you. How you decide to answer question 3 will depend upon the current condition of your spiritual heart. Your answer to question 3 will determine the direction of your life and will significantly affect all those in your sphere of influence. How you answer question 3 will determine whether Jesus Christ will someday say to you, “Welcome into my kingdom,” or whether He will say to you “I never knew you! Depart from me!” This chapter will help you to answer questions 1 and 2 accurately so that you may view question 3 from a foundation of truth. The Creator God of the universe allows you to answer question 3 any way you choose. May you choose wisely.

Chapter 9

What Jesus Christ Says About Himself



Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:25–26

The purpose of this chapter is to present in one place a representative selection of statements from Jesus Christ about Himself. His words leave no doubt that He proclaims to be the Son of God—God in human form. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man. His words tell us that He came to earth to bring us salvation and enable us to walk in the light of God’s truth rather than in the darkness of sin and deception. Sin is the breaking of God’s laws, and the penalty for sin is spiritual death—eternal separation from God. Jesus Christ’s words tell us that He came to earth to save us from the death penalty we deserve for sinning against the holy God of the Bible. Jesus Christ—the unblemished “Lamb of God”—is the only human being who has never sinned against God. He alone was qualified to be the perfect, sinless sacrifice needed to pay the full penalty for our past, present, and future sins. He did this by receiving the punishment that we deserve—God’s wrath against sin. Jesus Christ, after going to the cross for us and accomplishing His mission on earth, was physically resurrected from the dead three days later. The Word of God tells us that Jesus Christ—the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”—will return to earth to gather those who belong to Him so that they may live with Him for eternity. God always keeps His promises.

If you have any doubts as to whether Jesus Christ really is who He proclaims to be in the Bible, ask God to show you the truth about Him. Then as you read this chapter, I invite you to set aside your preconceptions while you ponder what Jesus Christ proclaims about Himself. May your understanding of Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him be totally consistent with what He reveals about Himself in the Bible.

Section 3

What the Bible Says About Human Beings



The Bible verses in the chapters of this section reveal to us God's foundational truths about human beings. It is on these truths that God wants us to base our understanding of ourselves, others, and our need for a right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Through these foundational truths God speaks to us regarding the following:

1. How God has designed you
2. How God views you
3. The reality of sin in your life and its consequences
4. The personal relationship that God desires to have with you
5. Your free will and the importance of your choices
6. How God wants you to view and think about yourself
7. How God wants you to view, love, and care for others

May the Bible verses in these chapters help you to more accurately understand who you really are and why God created you.

Chapter 34

God Values All Human Life



For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3–4

God created human beings in His image. He desires a loving relationship with each one of us for eternity. He still desires this, even though we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). God calls all human beings to be responsive to His prompting, to choose to earnestly seek Him, to repent of sin, and then to believe in and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God promises us in Jeremiah 29:13 “*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*”

In addition to valuing human life, God also values righteousness and justice. God’s holy nature requires that the just penalty for sin must be paid. The fact that God must execute perfect justice for those guilty of sin does not mean that He does not value human life. Out of love for human beings, God has provided a single way for the penalty for our sins to be paid and for us to be forgiven. John 14:6 tells us: “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” God offers each of us His Son, Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God—as the perfect, sinless sacrifice to pay the full penalty for our sins. God’s solution for our sins allows Him to have a personal, loving, and eternal relationship with human beings, while at the same time not compromising His holy justice. Whether or not one accepts God’s offer is a personal choice every individual must make. To deny one’s sinful nature and to refuse to repent of one’s sins equals rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ and sentencing oneself to God’s perfect justice and punishment for sin. That punishment is eternal separation from God in a place called hell. To accept God’s offer of salvation means to repent of one’s sins and to place one’s faith in Jesus Christ. It also means to become an obedient follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact that Jesus Christ came to be our sin-bearer, Savior, and Lord demonstrates how much God values and loves every human soul.

Appendix 2

Why It Is Important to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

1. God Communicates His Truths Through the Bible

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because the Word of God is the primary language-based way that God uses to communicate His truths to human beings. The Bible, when trusted and used properly, is a guidance system for Christian thinking that is of infinite value. God has given us the Bible to teach us how to rightly view Him, other people, this world, the circumstances of daily life, and ourselves. The Word of God teaches us about who God is, who we are, what this world is all about, and what happens when we physically die and leave this world. The Bible teaches us the truth about our sinful nature that separates us from God. The Bible teaches us the truth about Jesus Christ and how He alone can save us from the penalty for having sinned against God. Only through Jesus Christ can we enter into a right relationship with God for eternity. The Bible teaches us how to live our lives in ways that are pleasing to Him and spiritually fulfilling for us. The Word of God is the truth that teaches us the reality of all these things. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us in John 17:17 “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

2. The Holy Spirit Speaks Through the Bible

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because the Holy Spirit often speaks through God’s Word to communicate with and transform Christians. It is often when you are carefully reading and meditating on a Bible passage that the Holy Spirit reveals to you biblical truths, insights, and wisdom. The Holy Spirit also uses times when you are pondering Bible verses and applying them in your life to grow you spiritually.

Appendix 2

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 16:13–14

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–25

On the other hand, if you spend little or no time reading, studying, and pondering the Word of God, then you are suppressing the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. To the extent that you are not regularly setting your mind on the Word of God, your mind will drift toward the desires of your sinful nature and worldly things. Equipping your mind with the Word of God helps protect you from this spiritual pitfall.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. *Romans 8:5–8*

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. *Colossians 3:1–2*

3. Applying God's Word Requires Knowing God's Word

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because it is essential to being able to accurately and consistently apply Scripture to how you think and live. What happens when our minds are not equipped with the Word of God? Our ability to discern truth from untruth, good from evil, right from wrong, and wise from foolish will be weak even though we sincerely wish to be faithful Christians. We will tend to think more like the world thinks and make worldly decisions. Our perspectives and choices will initially seem to be wise,

Why It Is Important to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

but the results will often prove to be disappointing and sometimes harmful. Our relationship with God and our relationships with other people will suffer in spite of our desire for them to flourish.

4. Minds That Are Not Equipped with the Word of God Will Follow the Ways of this World

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because we humans have a tendency to want to go our own self-centered ways and justify whatever we feel like doing. Christians are not immune from this. If we are not continually equipping our minds with the Bible, then the Word of God will not be fresh in our minds and will have less influence on our moment-by-moment thinking. Instead, what will be fresher in our minds will be the myriad of messages and images continually coming our way from the world around us. Many of these messages and images are expertly designed to influence our thinking and appeal to our selfish desires. When our minds are not equipped with God's Word, we will lack discernment in many areas important to our lives. We will then be more likely to deceive ourselves and rationalize that an ungodly path is actually not a problem. The next self-deception is the human tendency to seek the approval of like-minded people whom we believe will agree with our selfish position. Christians who want to faithfully follow the Lord Jesus Christ must be equipped with the Word of God.

5. Knowing the Word of God is Essential to Putting on the Armor of God

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because it affects your ability to put on the full armor of God for spiritual protection (Ephesians 6:10–18). Spiritual protection means protecting your heart and mind from succumbing to such things as deception, doubts about God, doubts about the Bible, discouragement, distractions, pridefulness, unwillingness to forgive, bitterness, discontent, sinful lusts, greed, and selfishness. All around us and within us there is a great spiritual battle raging. The hearts and minds of human beings are the targets. This spiritual battle involves your heart and mind initially, but through your thinking and your choices this battle also affects your physical being as well as everyone within your sphere of influence. Your submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, your prayer life, and how well equipped you are with the Word of God will determine how protected you will be with the armor of God. When you are under spiritual attack, will you emerge from the battle

standing firm for Jesus Christ, or will you instead be defeated? Will you be standing firm so that you will be able to help those you care about as they face spiritual battles of their own? Or, will you be deceived for lack of God's armor and then discover in retrospect that during many of the spiritual battles you had been manipulated by Satan's forces into furthering his cause? For Christians, there is no escaping this great spiritual battle. We need to be equipped with the Word of God to be able to stand firm for Jesus Christ in this fallen, deceptive world.

6. Christians Are Called to Make Choices Based on the Word of God

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because each day we face spiritual choices that are part of the great spiritual battle, whether we realize it or not. God calls us in the Bible to trust and obey Him above anyone or anything else. Each time we face a decision between following God's wisdom or following man's wisdom we are involved in the great spiritual battle between God and Satan. What we choose will affect our current spiritual life as well as the person we are in the process of becoming. As in physical-world battlefields, things that at first seem insignificant can turn out to be monumental. It is vital in both the physical and spiritual realms that we recognize the difference between what is significant and what is insignificant. Knowing and trusting what the Bible says is essential to being able to discern which personal choices could have serious consequences for our lives or for others. Christians who are not equipped with the Word of God have hearts and minds that are highly vulnerable to spiritual attacks by Satan, his forces, and those humans they manipulate.

7. The Word of God Is Foundational for Discerning Good from Evil, Right from Wrong, and Truth from Error

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because when we know and trust God's Word, the Holy Spirit uses it to expose evil and to warn us when we are heading down the wrong path. Equipping your mind with the Word of God will enable you to properly use the Bible to test your own thoughts and feelings, test the advice and wisdom of other people, and test all that you see and hear in the world around you. You will be better able to recognize your blind spots so that you can make God-honoring course corrections. God's Word will always be consistent with the Holy Spirit's leading and with sound, godly counsel from other Christians. If the Bible is at odds with an alleged leading of the Holy

Why It Is Important to Equip Your Mind with the Word of God

Spirit, with the counsel of another Christian, or with your own thinking, God calls you to trust and obey the Bible instead. As a Christian, God calls you to trust and obey His Word even when you don't feel like it. Equipping your mind with the Word of God is part of God's plan to protect you from spiritual dangers, to bring spiritual blessings into your life, and to develop you into a mature, faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. The Word of God is Essential to Being a Faithful Ambassador for Jesus Christ

Equipping your mind with the Word of God is important because it is essential if you are to be a faithful and fruitful ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ commands Christians to make disciples:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. *Matthew 28:18–20*

If our minds are not equipped with the Word of God, then our lives will not be consistent with the Word of God. If our lives are not consistent with the Word of God, then we will not properly reflect Jesus Christ to others. If we are not properly reflecting Jesus Christ, then we will be ineffective at being His ambassadors to this world and at making disciples of others. If you want to be a faithful and fruitful ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ, then the Word of God must be central to your life.

9. Equipping Your Mind with the Word of God is an Essential Part of Renewing Your Mind and Being Transformed by God

God calls us in Romans 12:2 to be transformed: “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” Renewing your mind involves submitting your life to God, trusting in Him, and trusting the Word of God above the wisdom of this world. It involves viewing the world and our lives according to God's values, principles, and truths which He reveals to us in the Bible. Renewing your mind means setting your mind on things that are pleasing to God instead of on things that are displeasing to Him. All of these things

are crucial for us as Christians who must still face life's troubles, temptations, the anti-God influences of our culture, and the attacks of Satan and those he controls. Satan's forces are continually working to deceive us, destroy our trust and confidence in the Bible, and undermine our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Standing firm against these influences and being transformed through the renewing of your mind requires having a mind that is effectively equipped with the Word of God.

10. How You View and Treat the Bible Will Influence Every Area of Your Life

How you view and treat the Bible will determine how you think about God, view and relate to Jesus Christ, treat other people, view yourself, view this world, and think about truth. In addition, how you view and treat the Bible will determine what you believe about life, death, heaven, hell, and what is required for entrance into an eternal relationship with God. Finally, how you view and treat the Bible will determine your moral values, life priorities, daily priorities and what you think, say, and do each day. God cares deeply about your thoughts and attitudes in each of these areas. God knows that your thoughts and attitudes reflect the condition of your heart and will determine your words and actions.

God calls you to trust and obey Him—which means trusting in and obeying His Word. God tells us in the Bible how He wants us to view and treat His Word. Chapters 1–4 of Volume 1 of this book series presents how God calls us to view and treat the Bible. If the Bible is truly central to your life, God's principles and wisdom will be at home in your heart and will be reflected in your thoughts, words, and deeds. You will increasingly have what is called a *biblical worldview*. Developing a God-honoring biblical worldview and equipping your mind with the Word of God go hand in hand

The Bible is God's precious gift that He uses to teach us His truth, guide our thinking, and transform our lives. When the minds of Christians are well equipped with the Word of God, they are better able to discern God's truth and principles from man's contrary philosophies, myths, and deceptions. Equipping your mind with the Word of God is vitally important for developing a God-honoring biblical worldview and for growing in *spiritual maturity*—thinking and living more like Jesus Christ and less like this world.

EQUIP YOUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD

The *Equip Your Mind with the Word of God* book series is a window into the Bible—the inspired Word of God. Each book’s chapters focus on a topic of interest and present Bible verses related to that topic. The chapter pages are formatted for excellent readability with ample space for personal notes. *Volume 1: Foundational Truths for Living* explores what the Bible says about the Word of God, the God of the Bible, and human beings.

Who will find this book valuable?

- Anyone who is exploring a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Anyone seeking to know God better
- Those seeking to grow in spiritual maturity
- Anyone seeking to better understand themselves and others
- Those serving as biblical counselors or mentors
- Leaders and participants of small-group Bible studies
- Parents who are active in teaching their children what the Bible says
- Anyone seeking to better understand the truth about this world
- Those serving as Bible teachers or Christian leaders

How can this book be used?

- As a personal or family devotional book
- As a resource for biblical counseling and mentoring
- To encourage someone you care about during life’s difficult times
- As a resource or study book for small-group Bible studies
- As a resource for learning what the Bible says
- To help someone you care about see the Bible in a new way
- As a resource for growing in spiritual maturity
- As a resource for applying the Bible to everyday living

Barney O. Browne grew up with a strong interest in science and the natural world that led him to initially pursue geology in college. He later changed his major to business and received a BBA and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This led to a twenty-eight-year career with IBM where Barney learned to apply critical-thinking and systems-thinking skills. It is with this background that, in his late thirties, Barney became aware of a growing number of problems regarding several so-called facts that he had believed for decades. The more that he tested these so-called facts and their underlying assumptions, the more he found them to be inaccurate or weakly supported and in reality mere opinions. This pursuit of truth led Barney to investigate the Bible, to realize that the God of the Bible is real, and to believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord at age forty. Barney currently works with a team of men who lead Bible studies that focus on teaching a biblical worldview and developing biblical spiritual maturity. One of his favorite quotes is from George Washington: “There is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily.”

MindEquip

www.mindequip.com

ISBN: 978-0-9801399-4-5