

# THE WORD 101

Lesson 1



## Lesson Principles:

1. What Adam got you into, only Jesus can get you out of.
2. Man without God is incomplete.
3. You have to know by choice that you are in a relationship with God.
4. If the Word can't keep you, nothing else can.
5. You can't cover your own sin. Only the blood of the lamb can cover you.

## Objective:

To put the Word of God in your heart.

## The 20/20 Vision of the Book of Acts Church

### **READ - Acts 20:20**

We look at the book of Acts because this is where we see the birth of the Christian Church.

Q. What did they do?

A. They met publicly and from house to house. In other words, they had church services and individual Bible Studies.

### **READ - Acts 17:11**

Q. How often did the Bereans search the Scriptures?

A. "Daily"

(see also Mt 6:9-11 "daily bread")

Consistency is the key to maximum impact of the Word.

When a doctor prescribes antibiotics you have to keep taking them even when you start to feel better or you will experience a relapse. We must stay in the Word or we will relapse into sin.

"...whether those things were so." – The early church made sure the preacher was preaching the Bible to them. You must know the Word for yourself so that you can think Biblically.

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## The Old Testament

The Old Testament is divided up into Four main periods:

**Innocence** This period lasted for an unknown length of time. It began from the creation of man and lasted until the fall.

**Conscience** This period began after the fall of man and lasted to the calling of Abraham. Living by your conscience basically means that you are doing what is right in your own eyes.

Let's talk about it...

**Q:** What is the problem with living by your conscience?

**A:** The problem with living by your conscience is that your conscience can become seared. If your conscience is "bad", you live "bad."  
Conscience tends to bring guilt after the fact, but it cannot keep you from the doing wrong.

**Patriarchs** This period began with the calling of Abraham and lasted until the giving of the Law of Moses. This period is based on the promise or covenant that God made with Abraham.

**Law and Prophets** This period began with the giving of the Law of Moses to the Children of Israel and lasted to the coming of Jesus Christ. During this time God spoke to His people through the Prophets of the Old Testament and the people of God were waiting for their Messiah.

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## READ - Romans 5:12-19

**Principle #1**  
God's message to us throughout the Bible (Old and New Testament) is:  
What Adam got you into, only Jesus can get you out of.

## READ - II Peter 1:21

The Prophets of Old were "moved" or picked up and carried along by the Holy Ghost. They were inspired by God.

The Old Testament has 1 author, (God Himself) and 32 writers. It covers over 4000 years of man's history from Adam to Christ and has no discrepancies, contradictions, or inconsistencies.

### Just Sayin'...

Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately foretells specific events—in detail—many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. Approximately 2500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors. (The remaining 500 or so reach into the future and may be seen unfolding as days go by.) Since the probability for any one of these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance averages less than one in ten (figured very conservatively) and since the prophecies are for the most part independent of one another, the odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in  $10^{2000}$  (that is 1 with 2000 zeros written after it)!

Source: Ross, Hugh. "Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence For the Reliability of The Bible." Reasons To Believe. 20 Sept. 2010 <<http://www.reasons.org/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-reliability-bible>>.

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The Old Testament contains a total of **39** books.

**The Pentateuch** - 5 books of the Law written by Moses.

**The Historical Books** - 12 books representing the history of the Jewish nation.

**The Poetic Books** - 5 books written in poetic form. The poetic books demonstrate God's desire to have a personal relationship with man (i.e. The Song of Solomon).

**The Prophetic Books** - 17 books in which God will make predictions concerning the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age (This can be split into 5 major prophets and 12 minor prophets to create a 5-12-5-5-12 pattern. The 5 books of the law create a framework for the 12 books of history. The 5 Major Prophets create a framework for the 12 Minor Prophets.)

## In The Beginning God...

**READ - Genesis 1:1** (Just the first four words)

God puts the hardest thing to believe right up front.

It is not an explanation of **who** God. It is a declaration **that** He is.

If you can accept the idea that before there was a beginning there was an all-powerful God, then the rest of the Bible is easy to accept.

It assumes His **eternity**, for He is before all things: and since nothing comes from nothing, He Himself must have always been. It implies His **omnipotence**, for He creates the universe of things. It implies His **absolute freedom**, for He begins a new course of action. It implies His **infinite wisdom**, for a κόσμος kosmos, "an order of matter and mind," can only come from a being of absolute intelligence. It implies His **essential goodness**, for the Sole, Eternal, Almighty, All-wise, and All-sufficient Being has no reason, no motive, and no capacity for evil. It presumes Him to be **beyond all limit of time and place**, since He is before all time and place.

This is a powerful declaration!

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Let's talk about it...

We call the acceptance of this declaration, "faith".

Q: What is "faith"?

A: According to Hebrews chapter 11 verses 1, faith is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.

Verse 6 says that faith is the prerequisite to pleasing God. And verse 8 shows us that faith is synonymous with obedience.

## **READ - Hebrews 11:6**

If we accept His declaration, He will prove Himself to us over and over again.

## **READ - Hebrews 11:8**

"By faith Abraham...obeyed..." **Faith and obedience are synonymous.**

## **READ - Hebrews 11** (...with the word "obedience" in place of the word "faith")

It is impossible to have faith without obedience. If faith can be defined as merely, "mental assent", then Noah would not have built an ark and the world would be a much different place. Thus, "Without *obedience* it is impossible to please God..." (vs 6)

## **READ - James 2:14-26**

James agrees. Faith must be accompanied with action.

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## “In The Beginning Was The Word...”

### **READ - John 1:1-4**

In the opening words to the prologue to his Gospel, John makes a very strong reference back to the opening words of the book of beginnings. Unlike the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, which begin with the genealogies of Jesus Christ in a physical sense, John opens with a genealogy of a supernatural sense. John escorts his readers to the beginning of time and space when there was simply the Word. John reveals that before there was even one human word, before the ten “words” of Decalogue were spoken to Moses (Exodus 19), before a single word was spoken by one of the prophets of God, there was the Word that was God. We use words to communicate and to share information or to express our thoughts, feelings and ambitions. We also use words to build relationships and to accomplish goals. Our words literally represent us when we speak them and are a verbal extension of ourselves to others. By opening his gospel with a reference to the Word that is God, John boldly states that God’s Word is an extension of God Himself. The thoughts, feelings, and ambitions of God are bound up in His Word, and able to accomplish all of His purposes.

#### Just Sayin’...

The Old Testament is full of the general idea of the power of words. Once Isaac had been deceived into blessing Jacob instead of Esau, nothing he could do to take that word of blessing back again (Genesis 27). In particular, we see the word of God in action in the creation story. At every stage of it, we read: “And God said...”. The word of God is the creating power. Again and again in the Old Testament we get this idea of the creative, acting, dynamic word of God. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made” (Psalm 33:6). God is a creative being, and because we are made in the image of God we too are creative beings. A skyscraper started out as an idea in someone’s mind and became reality. Someone saw a bird flying one day and thought, “Hmmm...I wonder if man could fly...” and since then man has been to the moon. We are creators. Just as God’s spoken word created the reality that we see, our spoken words create a reality in our lives. If you call yourself or someone else ugly, stupid or worthless, those words will create that reality in their life. Our words have the ability to create and destroy, and we need to use them to create things that we can look at and say, “It is good.”

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## READ - John 1:14

John goes on and tells us that the Word that was in the beginning took on human form and lived on the earth and was the *monogenes* or “only begotten”. John uses this term not to signify the birth or generation of the Word, but to mean that the Word is *one of a kind* or unique. The Word is unique in that it is eternally Deity (“the Word was God”) and inextricably joined to mankind (“the Word became flesh”). In other words, Jesus Christ was fully man and fully God at the same time. When God incarnated Himself, He became something that He had never been before, but never stopped being what He always had been. Also what John is saying is that it was Jesus Christ that was the one who is the Creator. Paul agrees with this idea in Colossians 1:15-17:

“[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

The Old Testament writers confirm that God is the Creator.

Isaiah: “Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it” (Isaiah 42.5).

Jeremiah: “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power...” (Jeremiah 32.17).

Amos: “For behold, He who forms mountains, and creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is...The LORD God of hosts is His name” (Amos 4.13).

Nehemiah: “You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You” (Nehemiah 9.6).

Malachi: “Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?” (Malachi 2.10).

The New Testament writers had the understanding that Jesus Christ was the Divine Being that was “in the beginning” that created everything. In effect, Jehovah of the Old Testament is Jesus of the New Testament, and they are one in the same.

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## Just Sayin'...

Colossians 1:17 in the New International Version reads, "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." The implication of this verse is that without the existence of God everything would fall apart. Mountains would disintegrate, planets would implode, galaxies would cease to exist. God is literally the bond that holds everything together. It is the same in our lives. When God is taken out of a family it begins to fall apart. Without the presence of God in a marriage the relationship will crumble. And if we do not have Jesus Christ in the center of our lives we begin to self-destruct. Jesus is the bond that holds your life together!

## "And God said..."

### **READ - The first three words of Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26**

God created everything by speaking it. There is creative power in His word.

**Day 1** - God separated or divided the light from the darkness. The Word of God has the power to cut things out of our life or divide things from us that will prevent spiritual growth.

**Day 2** - God divided the waters above (the atmosphere) from the waters below (the seas). The Word of God will prepare our lives and add things to our lives that will cause us to flourish in Him.

**Day 3** - God caused the dry land to appear and created grass, herbs, and trees, that were already bearing seed and fruit when He created them. The Word of God has the power to speak blessings into our lives that can produce fruit immediately so we can bless the lives of others.

Once God's Word speaks it continues to speak. God only said "Let there be light" one time, but light continues to exist even thousands of years later.

### **READ - Psalm 19:1-4**

David, when speaking of the heavenly bodies, seems to understand this very idea when he asserts that the heavens, in a universal language, declare the glory of God. As though they are saying, "light...light...light..."

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What was this light? We know that it was not the sun because the sun was not created until the fourth day. Whereas we do not know for sure what that light was, we do know there are many other sources for light other than the sun. For example, electricity can produce light. There are also other forms of radiation that give off light. We also know that God is light (1 John 1.5) and that light could have emanated directly from Himself such as it did on the mount of transfiguration.

**Day 4** - God made the sun, moon and stars to divide the day from the night. Apparently God replaced the light of Day One with the sun and moon. He also made them for signs and for seasons. It was apparently at this time that God put the earth in orbit around the sun and the moon around the earth.

**Day 5** - On the fifth day God made the water dwelling animals, such as the whales, and the birds which fly.

**Day 6** - God made the earth-dwelling animals, such as the cattle and creeping things, which could refer to insects and snakes. Last of all on the sixth day God made man, the ultimate of his creation, after His own image.

## Just Sayin'...

The creation of the world demonstrates the love of God through His providence. Deists believe that God created the universe, wound up the clock, set it going and left it. What they fail to see is that because God is love, He provided for all of His creation, and His act of creating is followed by His constant care. God did not create anything that had a need before first creating the provision. God did not create schools of fish and then say, "Oops, I better create some water real quick! Hold on little fishies, the water is coming." God did not create cattle and then say, "Hmmm...I wonder what they are going to eat?" This point is incredible! If we have a need (and we all do), it is only a sign that there is a provision from the Creator to fulfill that need. If we have a problem, God already has a solution.

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The first man was fully developed on the day of his creation. Perhaps he looked thirty years old. This harmonizes with Genesis 1:11 where God created fully developed plants and trees that were immediately bearing seed and fruit. Creation of fully developed things results in a concept of **apparent age**. Therefore the trees, stars, man and all of creation might appear to be old to us because of our realm of thinking in which we are used to seeing things grow over a period of time. Even if the stars are millions of light years away, God had to create the light beams as well as the stars in order for them to help “rule by night” (Ps 136.9). The light was created with the stars and instantly spread across space. When God speaks, “Let there be,” it can happen instantaneously. The stars must have been visible from the moment of their creation on the fourth day. In our day we do not see new stars “turning on” in the night sky as if their light has finally reached the earth. Therefore, we do not need to explain away the age of the earth by any theories that might question the authority of God’s Word. If God can create trees that are fully developed it is no small task for Him to create planets, solar systems, galaxies, and universes that are fully developed and might appear to be millions or billions of years old.

## **READ - Genesis 1:26, 31**

God made man on Day 6. Key concept: the number of man is 6.

## **READ - Genesis 2:1-3**

God rested on Day 7. Key concept: God’s number is 7.

### **Principle #2**

**6 is one less than 7. Man without God is incomplete. There is a God-shaped hole in everyone and no one will ever be at rest until they are spiritually complete in God.**

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## READ - Genesis 2:7

Mankind is the only creature for which God gives us detailed information on how he was created.

Man has the touch of God on his life. He was formed by God's hands out of the dust of the ground and made in His image. Man's original understanding was in the presence of God. Mankind "woke up" in the presence of God. Originally, the presence of God was all he knew.

**The soul will never be at rest until it is back in the presence of God.**

## Power of Choice

## READ - Genesis 2:15-16

The first thing God gives man is a lot of liberty.

Man's job was to keep the place God has prepared for him (vs 15). Stewardship: The garden was God's, not Adam and Eve's. God gave them a **trust** and then a **test**.

God will give you a "trust" and you will have to pass the "test."

Most people feel the Bible is full of "don't do this." The Word is really full of liberty within the commandments of God (vs 16).

God's word always **protects** us from something and **provides** us with something.

Example - "Thou shalt not lie." - When we speak the truth or we are protected from telling a string of lies. We are protected from broken relationships due to a lack of trust. We are provided with a foundation for sound relationships and the lack of "skeletons in the closet." Even though telling the truth may provide an immediate negative benefit (discipline, etc.), it will provide for long-term positive benefits.

In the case of Adam, God is protecting man from the knowledge of evil.

## READ - Genesis 2:17

God gave 1 simple commandment. Don't eat or touch the tree.

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**Principle #3**  
The tree represents “The Power of Choice.” You must know by choice that you are in a relationship with God!

Mankind is the only being in God’s creation with the power of choice. Salmon swim back to their origin to lay eggs, Canadian Geese fly south in the winter. They all act by instinct. Don’t ever let anyone take away your freedom to choose. Would it help you if you were forced to repent against your will? Of course not! You have to know by choice that you are living for God!

## **The power of choice = a loving relationship.**

If you are forced or constrained to live with a spouse, you can call it anything but love. You have to have the choice or the freedom to leave the relationship in order to call it a “loving relationship.” Love is of necessity the free response of the heart; and, therefore, God, by a deliberate act of self limitation, had to endow men and women with free will.

There was not a fence or a moat or an angel with a flaming sword. The only thing between Adam and Eve and the tree was the Word (the command) of God. God has given us his Word (BIBLE) so that we make the right choices. It is really our roadmap to life. If the Word of God cannot keep you in this life, nothing else can. That is why it is important to know what it says. And the only way to do that is to read and study it on a daily basis, and to apply it in our lives and the choices that we make every day.

**Principle #4**  
God protected Adam and Even from the tree with His Word. The Word of God is in your life to help you make the right choices. If the Word can’t keep you, nothing else can.

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## The Fall of Man

### READ - Genesis 3:1-13

Temptation by the Serpent (vs 1). Satan's primary job is to get you to question God's Word. He will make you think God is keeping something good from you.

Eve: "We shouldn't touch it" (vs 3). Adam and Eve had rehearsed the command of God. They had some of His Word in their lives. Notice God told them not to touch it, why? If you don't touch it, you don't eat it. If you don't go into the bar you won't drink. If you don't get physical with your significant other you won't commit sexual sin.

Satan: "You will *not* surely die" (vs 4). The devil's main line of attack is to get you to question God's Word. Is His Word really mean that? Does it really apply to my life?

#### Just Sayin'...

In Genesis 3 Satan begins to get Adam and Eve to question the Word of God. He uses tactics that he is still employing today; postmodernist deconstruction. And as a result Adam and Eve proceeded to deconstruct very quickly. Postmodernism is just an old idea wrapped in a new sophisticated package. In postmodern thought, words have no meaning, morality and truth have no absolute. But in reality, the only absolute is THE Word, the very person of God. Philosophers have tried to teach morality apart from God for thousands of years making mankind the reference point. Only the Bible teaches that morality is inseparable from the Person of God.

Adam was *with* Eve during the exchange with the serpent (vs 6). It was Adam's job to keep evil influences out of his home. You cannot do anything about what your friends or family do in their lives, but you can control what happens in your own life. Adam should have spoken up and kicked snake out of the garden because he had dominion over the animals. They were both guilty.

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Their eyes were opened (vs 7-10). This is the first time we see fear, shame, and blame. Adam and Eve tried to cover their shame with fig leaves. It is impossible for us to cover our own guilt and shame. Adam and Eve hid themselves from God, and God goes looking for them. God is still out looking for people today. We are the ones that are hiding from God while He is the one calling out to find us. God asks a rhetorical question. God knew where Adam was physically in the garden. When he asked, "Where are you?" it forced Adam to think about where he was spiritually and why he was there!

**Principle #5**  
You can't cover  
your own sin.  
Only the blood of  
the lamb can  
cover you.

Along with sin comes blame (vs 11-13). It might appear that Adam is blaming Eve but he is really blaming God. "The woman YOU gave me...she made me do it!" Eve blames Devil. "The devil made me do it!" People will blame anyone and everyone for their problems. We don't want to take personal responsibility for our actions.

## **READ - Genesis 3:14-19**

God curses serpent and Satan (vs 14-15). The amazing thing about all of this is that in the middle of these curses we see the first promise of a Redeemer! It doesn't matter how bad the situation is, there is always hope with God!

The curse in verse 15 is a picture of the battle between God and Satan. If you take a baseball bat and hit someone in the heel, they would be injured or bruised, but not dead. On the cross, Jesus Christ was bruised. If you take the same bat and hit someone between the eyes, they would have a mortal wound. At the cross Jesus Christ struck a mortal blow to the head of Satan, and he will never recover. There is a battle taking place between God and Satan over our lives, and Satan has already been defeated!

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The curse on the woman (vs 16). The desire to rule over man is not a blessing, it is a curse, it creates unrest and violence in the home.

This does not mean that the man is better than the woman. The man and the woman are different and were created to compliment one another, not to compete with one another.

The woman tries to rule over the man through her sexual power. But, he will rule over her through the physical strength advantage. We see this very prevalently in our culture, women are dressing provocatively, and men are raping them, beating them, having affairs, etc. We don't have to be at odds with each other. We can rise above the curse!

The curse on man (vs 17-19). Now we have to work for a living. We have to put up with alarm clocks, long hours, frustration, stress – it's not easy.

## **READ - Genesis 3:21**

Coats of skins vs. fig leaves. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves. This was not good enough. God said "In the day you eat of the tree you will surely die." Did they die that day? Physically, no. Spiritually, yes. Death is defined as a separation. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is the separation of our spirit from the spirit or the presence of the Lord.

Adam and Eve did not die a physical death that day, but something had to physically die to meet the requirement of God's word.

Righteousness demanded death because God hates sin.

Love spared mankind. God's love for us is incomprehensible.

Love and righteousness collide and mercy is produced.

This is the beginning of the doctrine of substitution! What saved Adam and Eve was the blood of an innocent animal. God took out his wrath on an animal, probably a lamb. He violently ripped the skin from that animal, taking out His aggression against sin, and clothed Adam and Eve. As Adam and Eve left the garden, the blood from the skin of that animal covered them and they knew that because the lamb died, they could live.

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This is the beginning of the Doctrine of Substitution. God allowed the innocent to take the place of the guilty. The blood of the innocent lamb was physically applied to them that day! God looked at them through the blood.

Why do we think it was a lamb that died that day? This is a picture of the cross.

## **READ - John 1:29**

Jesus is the “Lamb of God” which takes away the sin of the world.

The blood of the lamb that was killed in the garden could only *cover over* Adam and Eve’s sin. The blood of the perfect lamb (Jesus) would *take away* man’s sin.

Substitution at The Cross. Because Jesus died, I can live.

Can you see how much God hates sin?

Do you understand how much God loves you?

## **Philippians 2:5-11**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.