

Select Biblical Topics

# Introduction BY DESIGN

A SERIES FOR THE MATURE DISCIPLE AND NOT FOR  
THE WEAK OF CONSCIENCE

Presented by Bill Ireland



# Select Biblical Topics

## By Design God's Word



### Does the Bible Speak?

God's Word is alive and well and can bring victory into your life through Christ. This will be a challenging Bible study series to Provoke Good Thought and Good Works. Good Works motivated by Love and accomplished through Faith.

#### ***Study to show yourself approved Unto God***

*(2 Timothy 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*(James 2:18) But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

*(Romans 10:8-9) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word-of-faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

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*This study will use scripture giving preference to the King James version of the Bible*

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## Overview

- Welcome:
  - Ground Rule: All Truth is Revealed Truth (Matthew 15:17)
  - Ground Rule: The Bible is God's Word and is the "Logos" (Greek) of God (John 1:1)
  - Ground Rule: That God can actively speak by the "Rhema" (Greek) word of God (Matthew 4:4).
  - Ground Rule: The student is to not lean to his own understanding but to rely on the Spirit of Truth to lead into all Truth (Proverbs 3:5-6 & John 16:3)
  - Ground Rule: Sometimes we are all wrong (John 9:1-12).
  - Who Should be Interested: Thoughtful individuals that have an appreciation for the integrity and wonder of the Word of God. Those who do not offend easily in their wrestling with the things of God and our role in His World. Those who let the peace of God rule in their heart and look to the perfect law of liberty in the Spirit of Truth (James 1:25).
- Purpose:
  - To advance the sanctification process in life through the power of the Gospel and the transforming and renewing of your mind with the goal of having the mind of Christ (Romans 12:2).
  - To discover that in Christ are hid all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge (Colossians 2:3).
- Key Take Aways (student to look up a supporting verse for each takeaway)
  - Learning Obedience by an act of our free will in response to the Gospel.
  - Walking in the Spirit rather than obeying the lust of the flesh.
  - Resisting the devil by the word-of-faith.
  - Pleasing God by faith and glorify Him in all you do.
  - Equipping for evangelism and being able to stand firm in faith.
- Warning
  - If the student offends easily the student is not ready for this study. However, if you accept the challenge of this study, you will be stronger in your faith. Jesus became flesh as plainly stated in scripture and he lived sinless by faith alone in obedience to the Father.
  - Many have adopted a theology on the notion that Jesus was fully God and fully man at birth and to his resurrection. This study challenges that doctrine as it is not found in scripture. The fully God fully man concept originated about 451 A.D. by an orthodox council to settle differences on this assertion (The Chalcedon Formula). What this position denies is the essential significance of the sacrifice that God the Father and His only Son experienced. This doctrine of fully God and fully man fails to make the case to give legitimacy to the cross. If relied upon it would not have been able to defeated the law of sin and death. If Jesus, by divinity, resisted temptation his sacrifice would not satisfy Satan's claim on fallen man. Jesus' victory over sin and death that paid the price of man's debt from Adam's sin required Jesus to live sinless by volition of his will as a man. Jesus was to be coequal to the first Adam. Only by Jesus' being the second Adam (unambiguously made flesh) could he be victorious through obedience to the Father. His victory was transactional in the court of Heaven. If Jesus had leaned upon his former deity (as the Spirit of Christ) in any way to remain sinless unto death, then the payment threshold would not have been valid. The notion of any deity at work in Jesus' life on earth (other than through the authority given by the Father), would make a travesty of the virgin birth that was required of the making of Adamic man, Jesus.

Authors Note: This study may not change your mind and may even enrage a student that holds blindly to traditions of men, but it is the author's conviction that like Thomas Aquinas we must fully study controversy. This study is like no other in that it lays a legal foundation of the two laws, the two Adams, and two choices concluding with a legal declaration against the Doctrines of Excuses a call to action in chapter 10 (1 Timothy 5:17 KJV).

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## Forward

The *By Design* series opens with a bold invitation to approach Scripture not casually, but with reverence, diligence, and a willingness to be transformed. This introduction lays the foundation for a study crafted for the mature disciple — the believer who desires to grow beyond surface-level Christianity and into a life shaped by obedience, faith, and the Word of God.

This study challenges assumptions, confronts traditions, and calls the disciple to rely on the Holy Spirit rather than human understanding. It emphasizes that God's Word is alive, powerful, and capable of dividing between soul and spirit. It also reminds us that sanctification is not accidental; it is intentional, requiring humility, submission, and a willingness to wrestle with difficult truths.

May this introduction prepare your heart for the journey ahead — a journey into deeper faith, clearer understanding, and a more intimate walk with Christ.

## Summary

The Introduction establishes the purpose, tone, and theological framework for the *By Design* Bible study series. It emphasizes several core themes:

### 1. The Nature of God's Word

God's Word is living, powerful, and capable of transforming the believer. The study distinguishes between *logos* (the written, eternal Word) and *rhema* (the spoken, active Word), both essential for spiritual growth. Faith comes by hearing the Word, and speaking God's Word as one under authority one will find it releases His power and love.

### 2. The Purpose of the Study

The series aims to advance sanctification, renew the mind, and help believers develop the mind of Christ. It is designed for thoughtful disciples who appreciate the integrity of Scripture and are not easily offended by challenging truths.

### 3. Ground Rules for Study

- All truth is revealed truth.
- The Bible is the authoritative Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit leads believers into all truth.
- Students must not lean on their own understanding.
- Sometimes we are all wrong — humility is essential.

### 4. Key Takeaways

The introduction highlights the importance of:

- Learning obedience
- Walking in the Spirit
- Resisting the devil
- Pleasing God by faith
- Being equipped for evangelism

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## 5. The Humanity of Christ

A major theological emphasis pointed out in this study is that Christ became flesh and lived sinlessly *as a man*, not relying on His prior divine nature. The divine nature was set aside when the preincarnate Spirit of Christ came into the World not as deity but of flesh. Jesus lived as the second Adam that required equivalence with the first Adam and not equality with God. Jesus set aside any claim to preincarnate deity as the scripture clearly states that the “Word became flesh.” This is essential for understanding the legitimacy of his sacrifice and his victory over sin and death. It was at resurrection wherein his divine authority was restored according to the scripture and becoming the Lamb of God.

## 6. The Enemy and the Mechanism of Sin

This introduction to the By Design Bible Study series outlines Satan’s role as the tempter and deceiver. The mechanism of sin’s occurrence includes Tempter → causes the temptation → engages our lust → if we obey the lust, it conceives then → sin occurs → and finally death. It is the believer’s responsibility to resist temptation to interrupt the allure of the temptation or simply be delivered from evil. Jesus by example was victorious over temptation and therefore over sin through faith and the application of the Word-of-Faith as a pattern to follow for those that believe in the Gospel.

## 7. Conversion and Transformation

There is a convenient lesson on salvation being a change as dramatic as being born again or having all things new as we transition from death to life. Consider anyone attempting to convert one measurement into another. A rationale of the transformation method requires the use of an factor known as the “identity element.” In a spiritual construct, take the measure of a man in the World as sinful and if there is any hope to be converted to righteousness, then there must be an identity element that transfers us from darkness to light or as sinful to righteous. Christ was identified as that identity element when he lived righteous and yet on the cross, he became sin. Through Christ’s atonement for our sins this transference was able to take place as we can identify with Christ as he took upon himself our sinfulness and through this being both righteous and sinful man then in the victory all things for those that opt into the Gospel by faith become new.

This canceling the debt of fallen man and putting on the new man as the righteousness of God will lead to our hope being the final reward by the putting on the incorruptible in resurrection. Redemption of sinful man required a conversion that would make new the sinful nature under the first Adam’s sin. Conversion is also a mathematical process that may add insight into salvation through Christ victory. The conversion process is also found in a mathematical sense and will be discussed. It is hoped that it will help demonstrate the mystery of the lamb of God and how this transaction from sinful man under the law of sin and death is able through the identity of Christ in the atonement to realize the change of a sinner to become the righteous of God and be counted again in right standing with God. It is salvation by grace through faith that allows the believer to then serve under the authority of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ.

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*This study encourages deeper word study in the Greek.*

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## Believe the Word

God demonstrates to us that words matter. In fact, His words created all matter. He speaks things into existence. There is a heavenly language of authority, power and majesty. The Bible describes wondrously that the word was with God and was God. The Greek rendering of the word “word” is the “logos.” This one term “logos” is one of several Greek words translated as “Word.” Considering the logos there is reasoning and a choice set before us. One needs to decide if the Bible is true. One needs to decide if it is relevant. One needs to decide to connect these preserved words that are quick and powerful so that they can be activated in our lives in obedience to God’s plan for our lives.

In the New Testament book of Hebrews we learn that Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Words spoken in faith can release the power of God in our lives. They can transform our lives as it renews our mind. Call it a mystery but consider that the Book of Revelation says that there is a blessing to the reader who reads the book of that prophecy aloud, see Revelation 1:3 and additionally, the warning that one should not add or take away any of the book recorded by John, Revelation 22:18.

(Revelation 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.*

(Revelation 22:18)

*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.*

## Word-of-Faith

The sanctification process and maturation of a disciple of Christ includes an ever-increasing understanding and application of the word-of-faith. The creative power as spoken and as used in prayer engages the creator and creature in actions of obedience to accomplish God’s will on earth. The “Lord’s prayer” contains the revelation of our responsibility and God’s readiness to have us accomplish His will in our lives. What is required is to be humble and submit our will to serve by faith and please Him – Consider the Lord teaching us to pray from Matthew 6:10 in part – “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” These are not wasted words empty of meaning. How are we to account of an obvious limitation of God’s will in the earth expressed in the Lord’s prayer? Why pray for His will to be done on earth and at the same time acknowledge that His will is done in Heaven? Why the obvious short coming about God’s will failing to be on earth and how it points to us to ask for this? When we pray, “thy will be done on Earth” it is saying, God use me as your servant to bring your will into the earth. His word includes the instructions to ask, seek and knock as described in Matthew 7:7-14.

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## Resisting God's Will

If we are going to be successful as believers, we need to understand and overcome the resistance to God's will occurring in our lives and in the earth. It is a resistance we impose on ourselves as He stands ready. The result of such overcoming are works by faith through love that glorifies him. That please Him. We know by reference that it is impossible to please Him without faith reading Hebrews 11:6. We notice that Christ in his ministry leading to the crucifixion and then resurrection included healing that was, at times, unfettered and at other times, no mighty work being able to be accomplished. Why? Faith and lack of faith are the reasons given, see Matthew 6:14-16 and 13:58 or Mark 6:5, respectively. So now we have God's will, Christ's will and our will that must through humility and submission be one with God the Father's will. Only by the word-of-faith acted upon by the believer is such a victory made real in us.

## Gift of Faith

So where did faith come from – my righteous deeds qualifying me? No. Faith was a gift from God to all men, consider Romans 3:20, I Corinthians 12:9 and Romans 12:3. The gift guaranteed that there was fairness for all to believe and wherein one could make confession to come to the knowledge of Christ and obtain mercy and transform from death to life and from sinfulness to righteousness stated in part in Romans 10:9-10.

Consider all of John 1 with the first part in verse 1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” When we are to study the scriptures and more specifically the word of God that will not pass away, see Matthew 24:35, we seek to understand the meaning of God's word where we find that the words in the Bible are of no private interpretation, see II Peter 1:20-21. Then how is faith to be discerned? This is the role of the Holy Spirit to comfort us, as believers, and lead us into all Truth as found in I Corinthians 2:2-16. If the disciple treats the scriptures casually or disrespectfully, he is not to expect anything but to flounder. Consider the idea that God's Words are alive full of meaning and possess all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ see Hebrews 4:12 and Colossians 2:3 now fully reside in the believer.

The study of the Word of God leads to changes in the believer and the World around him. These words in scripture are mighty to the dividing between soul and spirit, or we fail to understand how active it is in our life of faith in Christ. This is the intersection we find ourselves when accepting the Gospel, the truth of God's son who was on a mercy mission that informs us that we are to overcome the world and be able and enabled as saints to use rightly the word-of-faith in obedience and righteousness.

## Christ Became Flesh

In scripture (John 1:1) it states that Jesus Christ became flesh. How dare we say more? Therefore, in his earthly life he gave up the authority and power of the majesty in the Godhead where he could live as a man and unlike the first Adam, he would live a sinless example. Many have a lack of clarity thinking that Jesus Christ, kept his preincarnate divine stature giving Jesus

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special powers on the earth that enabled him to live sinless. But this would invalidate the threat of temptation that occurred in the wilderness to be tempted like us. But if he was not like us then this would make the sacrifice a fake suffering. Recall the comparison where the first Adam failed his test of being tempted and therefore failed at being sinless bringing the consequence of transferring his subjugation from God to Satan. What is the significance that Jesus is called the second Adam? The comparison informs us that Christ becoming flesh is only comparable in creature to the first Adam. The initial state of sinlessness as God's man was placed upon both Adams.

Both Adams are without initial sin. Both Adams must be fully capable of sinning in response to the Tempter, Satan. It is that all flesh has the lusts of the flesh common in all man. Many have wrongly accepted the notion that somehow Christ is both fully God and Fully man, but this is not the case, nor could it be. If Christ would have used his prior divinity as to what John 1:1 state that Christ (the Word) is from the beginning. If he brought this into also becoming flesh, he could not also claim victory over sin and death legally as it would not be possible to be victorious over sin if he could not sin. Christ became flesh. Then he became sin (vicariously for us). Then he died. And then he had something he never had. The second Adam was as a man victorious over sin and death by being obedient unto the Father until the end, sinless.

The victory expressed in Christ's resurrection, as the Lamb of God, entitled his restoration to glory in the Godhead – the Father exulted Jesus and restored his prior estate. The sacrifice and victory over Satan made Jesus' resurrection a cornerstone of the Gospel to all who would believe. Jesus Christ was the lamb of God that took away the sin of the World.

To understand the gravity of the situation God the Father was saying this is his one and only son. The Father was willing to give him up for this task required of the second Adam. Jesus might have failed and then both Jesus, God's only son and his man, would be lost forever to Satan. The Abraham – Isaac sacrifice showed this potential outcome as did the parables of the vineyard. Jesus like Abraham believed by faith what God said and did so by willful volition of faith. Seldom is the sacrifice of the Father spoken of or understood. Seldom the risk and suffering of Jesus spoken or understood. The stakes were high. Upon victory, the blood covenant was made new and final where the blood of goats could not suffice, only by the blood of Jesus Christ as the unblemished lamb of God could prevail.

Therefore, Jesus did not use his prior (Spirit of Christ) divine state to live sinless. We know Jesus was tempted as a man in all points and as it effects all men. This meeting with Jesus and the Tempter in the wilderness was prior to the start of his ministry on earth as expressed in Matthew 4:1-11. This occurred after a 40-day fasting when Satan then tempted Jesus who had lusts of a man. During this encounter with Satan, Jesus did not call upon his former position in the Godhead to resist temptation. He lowered himself being born in the flesh living sinless to his death. He resisted the temptation by speaking aloud the word of God directly at the threat, see 1 John 2:16, describing the lusts of the flesh and James 1:14-16. This victory over Satan (Tempter) made him worthy (a sinless man) to be the last sacrifice, the Lamb of God, the last innocent blood sacrifice that would affect the entire race of man just as the first Adam but this time unto

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life. The victory led to the offer of the Gospel to a lost race. Then all who would confess that he was the Son of God would be saved from judgement and be changed. Man could then be able to respond to the Gospel by that gift of faith that hears the Good Shepard's voice. Now we can see that the first Adam brought sin into the world and upon on all men, and the last Adam brought salvation as the quickening spirit to all who would call upon Him, see I Corinthians 1:45.

## Discussion Summary

When we finally understand that God wants you to succeed over sin and death and live righteously in Him then it is the Father that will reveal himself through faith in Christ as to what it means to be joint heirs of the Son of God, the first born of the dead to everlasting life. To no longer be subject to sin and death and eternal separation from God and the wrath of God. He has given you the choice to richly believe and overcome until the end.

## Mystery Revealed

### The Reasoning that the Sinless Christ became Sin

What does scripture reveal about salvation? More specifically about being born again? What has changed when one goes from darkness to light? From sinful man to being made righteous as a work of grace where a lost man obtains salvation and enters God's beloved and avoid God's wrath. New life is a matter of the sinful heart being made new, to experience a conversion from death to life. What was necessary was that Jesus Christ could become Sin even though he was righteous.

### What is Conversion?

There is an algebraic property between differing metered values as in feet or inches. If there is an equivalence between these measured values, we can turn one measured distance into the other form through a conversion process to exchange a certain number of feet into equal distance expressed in inches. What are the essentials to convert say from feet to miles or more complex from miles per hour to kilometers per hour? One needs two essential factors: first using miles for distance and hours for time and then convert to kilometers per hour. One can then convert this if we apply the identity element as a factor of conversion. What the conversion accomplishes is the ability to state an equivalent value relating to the desired measured value. Mixing units that have a different basis will confuse any understanding of a measured value required to communicate to others results using these needed unit of measure. While this is perfectly mathematical, another example may be when one converts AC voltage into a DC voltage by using a transformer to run a DC appliance off an AC outlet. These are all transformations or conversions from something that would be useless to useful.

There are various standards of measure we identify for a system of measures such as units of time, weight, or distance. The English units include Feet, Pounds and Seconds in contrast to Metric units defined in part by Meters, Kilograms and Seconds. These become standards for all

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to follow. Fundamentally, relying upon any conversion so not to mix up any results using these data requires a standard to look too to have assurance to trust results. The key that unlocks the conversion from one system to another requires the existence of a specific identity element.

We will use these results of conversion and then apply the same approach in the spiritual world to better understand the sacrifice of Jesus Christ secured upon the cross. Consider that Jesus often used the material world to give understanding of the spiritual world. Finding out the truth of Christ's sacrifice is contained in this message. He came into this world to save sinners. There requires labsinnersJesus Christ is "righteous." Jesus Christ who knew no sin became "sin." Then consider man who is "sin" needs to find an identity element that would be both righteous and sin in an equivalence to convert sinful man into God's intended desire to take sinful man and change him to become the righteous. This is the mystery of Christ that he was both righteous and sin. Clearly there is a problem to solve. And in this case, Jesus Christ alone qualifies as the identity element.

## Distance Problem

Convert 11,000 Feet to Miles

Given: The Identity Element:  $1 \text{ Mile} = 5,280 \text{ Feet}$

Convert Feet to *Miles*

Solution In Units:  $(\text{Feet}) \times [\text{Miles}] / (\text{Feet}) = \text{Miles}$  (because the Feet are Canceled).

Answer:  $(11,000 \text{ Feet} \times [1 \text{ Mile} / 5,280 \text{ Feet}]) = (11,000 \text{ Feet} \times 1 \text{ Mile}) / (5,280 \text{ Feet})$

Feet cancel  $11,000 \text{ Miles} / 5,280 = 2.083333 \text{ Miles}$

## Sin Problem

Convert (me) "Sin" to "Righteous" – This is not possible unless Jesus who was righteous became Sin.

Given: Jesus (Righteous) who did became (Sin) – then we have established the identity element is Jesus Christ

Jesus identified with sinful man as revealed in 2 Corinthians 5:21 – sin was able to be imputed to him.

Solution in Units:  $(\text{Me-Sin}) \times (\text{Jesus Christ-Righteous}) / (\text{Jesus Christ-Sin}) = \text{Me-Righteous}$  – by faith righteousness was imputed to us in this way. We look unto Jesus much the way those at Mt. Siani looked to the serpent on a staff that Moses held up to bring the unrighteous Jews worshiping idols now looked unto the salvation for their unrighteousness.

Our sin is cancelled and we become righteous just as if we never sinned. This is when we believed in and identified with Christ

(Me) became righteous through Jesus Christ as my identity element or factor of conversion.

Christ had been made flesh. Then he had to become sin for us even though he was sinless by the life lived without sin. This was legally possible as to the law that as the lamb of God he could have that sin be placed upon him.

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## The Enemy

In the earth there is an enemy of God and man, Satan. There is a study that may deepen this understanding but here suffice to say Satan is known as the tempter. He is the “fallen angel” cast to the earth who seeks to devour whom he can. He has worked to undermine the plan of redemption from the Garden of Eden to the end of his time at the final judgement where he and his minions (one third of all the angels who similarly fell from grace) finally judged and cast into the lake of fire. Until that day, Satan is the enemy, the liar, the deceiver, who robs steals and destroys but only in a way that he is permitted by God. The plan of redemption required the Gospel as he secures his man as the church and the saints that overcame the world and the devil.

The fight between the present kingdom of the devil and the Kingdom of God has never been an equal fight. However, while the devil has for this fleeting time been allowed certain powers, yet it is the believer that can defeat him in this life by the power of God. Scripture uncovers the deceptive nature of the devil, regardless of whether one believes in the devil’s existence. The strategies used by the devil, as well as the methods to overcome them, are both outlined in scripture. If the believer lives according to the Law of Liberty in Christ, then the disciple of Christ is enabled to be victorious against sin and faithfully serve God without sin. It is often excuses in religious conversation that fails to realize this victory in Christ over sin in this world as Christ tells us be you Holy as I am Holy.

A challenge for believers addresses the sanctification process that determines if the believer is going down the road of repeated failure rather than of victory. Walking by faith makes the difference. One key element is knowing how God designed us as revealed in scripture. Starting from the Garden of Eden, God made them male and female. That a man shall leave his father and mother and the two (man and woman) shall be one flesh. However, there was the garden event – where the deceiver (serpent/Satan) deceived the woman (Eve). Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness is where we see how to resist the devil and not sin. God’s word on the matter is just more powerful to obedience. Unfortunately, the first Adam went quite willingly along with respect to doubting what God had told him and what God said towards the rules in the garden not to eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil – Eve was seduced, and Adam disobeyed. Adam disobeyed at the point he decided to eat the fruit. There were consequences.

Adam did not resist the temptation he embraced it. Fortunately, God had a plan to reclaim man to God. So, what was the mechanism of sinning and how did this lead to the sinful nature of man? All of man that was to follow are likewise under the curse of Adam’s sin. No person on their own has potential for good or to be a good person and friends with God. There was a price to pay for this law breaking the first Adam choose. We are left with this that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? There are key insights once we see that all have sinned and fallen so short. The holy God’s nature could not accept sinful man to be an eternally sinful man. Therefore, God prevented access to the tree of life that was in the garden. As such the Tree of life was guarded by flaming swords until we will see it reappear in the Revelation of Jesus Christ recorded by John.

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Keys to our understanding of sin must consider how sin happens. Can one commit sin without temptation? Can a temptation happen without a Tempter? How does the tempter have access to man? Can the man resist the devil? Are we to stay ignorant of any devices that the enemy relies upon to deceive us so we might prevent being deceived? For believers, the answer is yes as there is a deliver and for the ungodly, the answer is no – they will not be delivered.

If we can understand what James informs us concerning the mechanism of sin as drawn away by our own lust, we have knowledge where we are vulnerable to sin. We own our lust; it is in us. However, we do not have to obey it once we experience the gift of salvation. This is closely related to having the fruit of the spirit that is self-control.

Given this set up – let us get into select topical studies in God's word that will help the sincere disciple to overcome sin that so easily gets the better of so many and learn to obey the Lord.

## Key Word Study

These terms reflect both ancient and modern usages of the English word "word" in the Greek as found in the Bible.

- Logos: Often used in philosophical and theological contexts, referring to the principle of order and knowledge. 330 times in the New Testament.
- Rhema: Refers to a specific word or utterance, often used in a more personal or immediate context. 70 times in the New Testament.

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- *4487 rhēma (from 4483 /rhēō, "to speak") – a spoken word, made "by the living voice" (J. Thayer). 4487 /rhēma ("spoken-word") is commonly used in the NT (and in LXX) for the Lord speaking His dynamic, living word in a believer to inbirth faith ("His inwrought persuasion").*

- *Ro 10:17: "So faith proceeds from (spiritual) hearing; moreover this hearing (is consummated) through a rhēma-word (4487 /rhēma) from Christ" (Gk text).*

- *[See also Gal 3:2,5 which refers to "the hearing of faith" (Gk text) – i.e., a spiritual hearing that goes with the divine inbirthing of faith.]*

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## *Prayer: I Place my Trust in You*

***My Father which art in heaven,***

*Hallowed be Thy name.*

*I acknowledge Thee as holy, and I bow my heart before Thy majesty and truth.*

***Thy kingdom come.***

***Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

*Use me, O Lord, as Thy willing servant, that Thy purpose may be made manifest in my life, and that I might not resist Thy will through unbelief or pride, but yield myself wholly unto Thee by faith.*

***Give me this day my daily bread.***

*Feed me with Thy living Word, both written and spoken;*

*I turn my ears to hear Thy voice, I use my mouth to confess Thy truth, and a heart where I meditate upon your word unto righteousness. Renew my mind, that I lean not unto mine own understanding, but be led by Thy Holy Spirit into all truth.*

***Forgive me my trespasses,***

*as I forgive those that trespass against me.*

*Cleanse me from every work of the flesh, and teach me obedience from the heart, that my faith may be made perfect through love and good works done unto Thy glory.*

***And lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil.***

*Strengthen me to resist the devil by Thy Word, that I might walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Let me remember that victory is found not in myself, but in Christ Jesus, who overcame sin and death through faithful obedience unto Thee.*

***For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.***

*Establish in the faith, equipped for every good work, and conformed to the mind of Christ, that my life may be lived by faith unto Thy praise and glory.*

***Amen.***

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<b>Scripture Index</b>	<b>Verse</b>	<b>Section Title</b>
Matthew	15:17	Overview (Ground Rule)
Matthew	6:10	Word-of-Faith
Matthew	7:7-14	Word-of-Faith
Matthew	24:35:00	Gift of Faith
Matthew	6:14-16	Resisting God's Will
Matthew	13:58	Resisting God's Will
Mark	6:05	Resisting God's Will
John	1:01	Overview (Ground Rule), Gift of Faith
John	9:1-12	Overview (Ground Rule)
John	17:15	Word-of-Faith
Romans	10:8-9	Study to show yourself approved, Gift of Faith
Romans	3:20	Gift of Faith
Romans	10:9-10	Gift of Faith
Hebrews	4:12	Gift of Faith
Hebrews	11:06	Resisting God's Will
James	2:18	Study to show yourself approved
James	1:14-16	Christ Became Flesh
1 Corinthians	12:09	Gift of Faith
1 Corinthians	12:03	Gift of Faith
1 Corinthians	2:2-16	Gift of Faith
1 Corinthians	1:45	Christ Became Flesh
Galatians	3:2,5	Key Word Study
Colossians	2:03	Gift of Faith
1 John	2:16	Christ Became Flesh
2 Timothy	2:15	Study to show yourself approved
2 Peter	1:20-21	Gift of Faith
Revelation	1:03	Believe the Word
Revelation	22:18	Believe the Word

# Select Biblical Topics

## WORKBOOK – INTRODUCTION TO THE BY DESIGN SERIES

### A. MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. The study emphasizes that God's Word is:
  - A. Symbolic and optional
  - B. Alive, powerful, and transformative
  - C. Only historical
  - D. Culturally limited
2. The Greek word *logos* refers to:
  - A. A personal prophetic word
  - B. The written, eternal Word of God
  - C. A poetic expression
  - D. A ritual chant
3. According to the introduction, faith comes by:
  - A. Human reasoning
  - B. Emotional experience
  - C. Hearing the Word of God
  - D. Religious tradition
4. Christ's victory over sin required Him to:
  - A. Rely on His divine nature
  - B. Avoid temptation
  - C. Live sinlessly as a man
  - D. Use angelic assistance
5. The mechanism of sin begins with:
  - A. Tempter
  - B. Lust
  - C. Fear
  - D. Temptation

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### B. FILL-IN-THE-BLANK QUESTIONS

1. God's Word is described as \_\_\_\_\_ and powerful.
2. Faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_, and hearing by the Word of God.
3. The two Greek words for "Word" are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus resisted temptation by speaking the \_\_\_\_\_ blank of God.
5. The sanctification process requires the renewing of the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Select Biblical Topics

## C. OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important for a disciple not to lean on their own understanding when studying Scripture?
  2. How does the distinction between *logos* and *rhema* deepen a believer's understanding of God's Word?
  3. Why is Christ's humanity essential to the legitimacy of His victory over sin and death?
  4. How does understanding the mechanism of sin help believers resist temptation?
  5. What does the introduction teach about the role of the Holy Spirit in leading believers into truth?
-

# Select Biblical Topics

## ANSWER KEY

### Multiple Choice

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A

### Fill in the Blank

1. **alive**
2. **hearing**
3. **logos, rhema**
4. **Word**
5. **Mind**

### Open-Ended (Sample Answers)

1. Because human understanding is limited and prone to error. Scripture must be interpreted through the Holy Spirit, who leads believers into truth and protects them from misunderstanding or doctrinal error.
2. Logos reveals God's eternal truth, while rhema is the active, spoken Word that brings faith and power into present circumstances. Together they show how God communicates and transforms.
3. If Christ relied on His divinity, His temptation would not be genuine, and His sacrifice would not legally satisfy the requirements of redemption. His victory had to be won as a man where he left the godhead and became flesh until sinless, he was restored to glory with victory over sin and death and the work of redemption complete.
4. Understanding that sin begins with lust helps believers identify vulnerabilities early, resist temptation, and rely on the Word-of-Faith to overcome.
5. The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture, convicts, comforts, and reveals truth. Without Him, the disciple cannot rightly divide the Word of God.

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## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION

**What part of the introduction most challenges your understanding of who Jesus was and how does it reshape the way you approach God's Word and faith in daily walk?**

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## LEADER GUIDANCE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these prompts to guide a meaningful, Spirit-led conversation:

# Select Biblical Topics

## 1. Draw Out Personal Insight

- “What stood out to you personally?”
- “Why do you think that part resonated with you?”

## 2. Connect to Scripture

- “Which Scripture in the introduction reinforces your point?”
- “How does this truth align with what you already know?”

## 3. Explore Application

- “How might this change the way you study the Bible?”
- “What step of obedience does this truth invite?”

## 4. Encourage Depth

- “What tension or challenge do you feel in this teaching?”
- “How does this stretch your understanding of Christ or the Holy Spirit?”

## 5. Close with Commitment

- “What is one practical change you will make this week based on what you learned?”
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# Select Biblical Topics

**Notes:**