

Going Deeper into the Word

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Introduction

We are focussing on the theme, “Going Deeper”, and more specifically “Going Deeper into the Word”. The Bible is called “the Word”.

The Bible is the basis for spiritual growth. It is milk for the baby believers and meat for the mature. Charles Spurgeon said: “*Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the Book widens and **deepens** with our years.*”

In his letter to the Romans, Paul bursts into a spontaneous exclamation of praise:

*Oh, the **depth** of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*
Romans 11:33 [NIV]

He describes God’s wisdom and knowledge as “unfathomable”, indicating that there are some depths that we will never be able to fathom with our human mind. However, he does not suggest that we should not explore those depths.

When he writes to the Corinthians, he confirms that God wants to reveal some **deeper** things to us:

*...God now unveils these **profound** realities to us by the Spirit. Yes, he has revealed to us His inmost heart and **deepest** mysteries through the Holy Spirit, who constantly explores all things.*
1 Corinthians 2:10 [TPT]

We can find the deep wisdom and knowledge of God in His Word!

Paul emphasises the importance of the Word:

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable**...*
2 Timothy 3:16,17 [NKJV]

How will we profit when we go deeper into the Word?

Let us look at where God’s Word can help us. It will help us to...

1. Discover God

God is not hiding Himself. He and everything else from us – God is a Revealer by nature.

God revealed Himself to young Samuel through His Word:

*...The Lord **revealed Himself** to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*
1 Samuel 3:21 [NKJV]

God wants to reveal Himself to us... Through His Word!

God breathed His life into His Word:

*Every Scripture is **God-breathed** (given by His inspiration)...*
2 Timothy 3:16 [AMP]

Jesus said that the Scriptures speak about Him:

*“You carefully study the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. **They do in fact tell about Me**,⁴⁰ but you refuse to come to Me to have that life.”*
John 5:39,40 [NCV]

We do not just study the Word to become good theologians or Bible school graduates. It is all about knowing God through Jesus Christ. As the Living Word He came and revealed or declared the Father to us.

Going deeper into the Word will help to...

2. Direct Learning

When we know the Bible, it can **direct** us to the particular answer we may need.

However, we do not study the Bible just for our own benefit. Knowing the Word will enable us to **direct the learning** of others, by pointing them to the right Scriptures:

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction** in righteousness...*

2 Timothy 3:16 [NKJV]

Studying the Bible in a dedicated and an orderly way could equip us to teach and train others:

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, **correctly analysing and accurately dividing, rightly handling and skilfully teaching** the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 [AMP]

3. Disclose Mysteries

We need revelation knowledge and spiritual understanding.

When we read and study the Word, the **revelation** or **illumination** will come:

*As I briefly wrote earlier, God Himself **revealed His mysterious plan** to me. ⁴As you read what I have written, you will **understand** my insight into this plan regarding Christ.*

Ephesians 3:3,4 [NLT]

Jesus thanked God the Father that these spiritual truths are hidden from the so-called wise and scholarly, and **revealed** them to little children:

*...“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and **revealed** them to little children...”*

Luke 10:21 [NIV]

Jesus told His disciples that the revelation of kingdom mysteries has been given to them:

*“...It has been given to you **to know the mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven...”*

Matthew 13:11 [NKJV]

The Holy Spirit is there every time we open the Bible. He will open our understanding.

4. Displace Ignorance

God's Word gives understanding in the place of ignorance:

*The unfolding of Your words gives **light**; it gives **understanding** to the **simple**.*

Psalms 119:130 [NIV]

God admonished Israel for rejecting, forgetting and ignoring His knowledge:

*“My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**...”*

Hosea 4:6 [NKJV]

Paul often stated that he did not want believers to be ignorant:

Romans 11:25 [NKJV]

1 Corinthians 10:1 [NIV]

1 Corinthians 12:1 [NKJV]

1 Thessalonians 4:13 [NKJV]

God's desire is that our ignorance would be replaced by His knowledge from the Word.

Going deeper into the Word will help to...

5. Declare Truth

Biblical doctrine (teaching) proclaims the truth.

God's truth is vital for us:

*To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. ³²Then you will **know the truth**, and the **truth will set you free**."*
John 8:31,32 [NIV]

The truth has the ability to set us free, but we must know it, believe it, hold on to it and follow it first.

God's truth is found in His Word:

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
John 17:17 [NKJV]

The same principle operates. We need to apply God's Word before it will sanctify us.

6. Denounce Error

Sound doctrine will be a safeguard against error.

The truth of God's Word will set us free in many areas, also from error:

*"...You will **know the truth**, and the **truth will set you free**."*
John 8:32 [NIV]

Knowledge of the Word (not our intellect or cleverness) will help us to overcome wrong ideas:

*...**"You are in error** because you do not **know the Scriptures or the power of God**."*
Matthew 22:29 [NIV]

If we are filled with the knowledge of God's Word, it will protect us from false teachers and heresy:

*...We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into... Christ.*
Ephesians 4:14,15 [NKJV]

Satan is a deceiver and he will take advantage of our ignorance.

*Lest Satan should **take advantage** of us; for we are **not ignorant** of his devices.*
2 Corinthians 2:11 [NKJV]

When we know God's Word, we have the advantage.

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