

Prospecting the Bible

Joy! Church | 3.26.23
We love you. Yes, you.

FUNdamentals Sunday
Reading the Bible

Bible by its numbers

- **2.** Testaments (Covenants)
- **66.** Books
- **1,189.** Chapters
- **31,102.** Verses
- **783,137.** Words (KJV)
- 35 to 40. Authors
- 100 Million. Published annually
- 5 Billion. Total published (est.)

Bible by its purpose

- Collection of stories?
- Collection of characters?
- History? Legends? Myths?
- Set of morals & rules?
- Set of principles?
- Set of beliefs & concepts?
- A philosophy, a spirituality?
- Owner manual, human beings?

Bible by its numbers

- 66 Books
- 1,189 Chapters
- 7,312 Verses
- 39 Authors
- 100 Million Copies Annually
- 5 Billion Copies Published (est.)

**1. Inspirer,
Holy Spirit
Of God**

Bible by its purpose

- Collection of stories?
- Collection of characters?
- Collection of legends & myths?
- Set of morals & rules?
- Set of laws?
- Philosophical & spirituality?
- Manual, human beings?

**REVEAL
JESUS the Christ
& God's Eternal Purpose**

Historically significant English translations

Name	ABRV	YR Pub
Wycliffe Bible	WYC	1382
Tyndale Bible	TYN	1526
Geneva Bible	GNV	1560
Douay-Rheims Bible	DRB	1610
King James Version	KJV	1611
English Revised Version	RV	1885
Revised Standard Version	RSV	1952
New American Bible	NAB	1970
New International Version	NIV	1978
New King James Version	NKJV	1982
New Revised Standard Version	NRSV	1989
English Standard Version	ESV	2001

Versions easiest to read

Name	ABRV	YR Pub
The Message	MSG	'93-2002
New Living Translation	NLT	1996
Easy-To-Read Version / Deaf	ERV / D	1987
Common English Bible	CEB	2011
God's Word Translation	GW	1995
New International Version	NIV	1978
English Standard Version	ESV	2001
New Revised Standard Version	NRSV	1989
Amplified Bible	AMP	1964
Special Mention: The Passion Translation	TPT	Ongoing

Guidelines & Keys

- Most important of all: **PARTNER WITH HOLY SPIRIT**. He is eager to do so
- Every scripture is **for** the church but not every scripture is **to** the church
- Context is EVERYTHING
 - Be wary of proof-texting by yourself or others
 - Who is speaking?
 - What is their role, position or title?
 - Who is he/she/they speaking to (audience, person, group)?
 - What is the situation (location, timeframe, setting, concern, issue, etc.)?
- Study bibles are good... for studying (getting context, satisfying curiosity)
- Read ABOVE the black line most of the time. Ignore breaks & headings?
- The Godhead (Trinity) **is** understandable (contrary to common opinion)

Tips for unearthing bible treasure

- Pray before, during and after reading
- Engage Holy Spirit, literally, aloud
- Go at your own pace, unpressured
 - Read and digest in manageable bites
 - Slow and well digested is better than fast or "goal achieved"
- Find, dedicate, fix up, keep up favorite places to read / listen
- Start wherever you want, read in whatever order you want or are led
 - Be choosy, get personal about what structure or plan to use, if any
- Mark up your bible
 - Using bible tabs it NOT cheating, does NOT make you "less than"
 - Write in it, highlight passages, etc.
 - Touch it, feel it, be tactile

Tips for unearthing bible treasure

- Choose topics or characters interesting or relevant to you
- Look up what you don't understand. It's super easy to do nowadays
- Read aloud, whenever and wherever you can
- Read or share with others
 - Discuss, argue with others (honorably, with love)
- Write down what you learn
- Write down questions
- Especially, note and write down things you sense
 - See, hear, feel, smell, taste
- Most of all, "How is Jesus revealed?" Anew, more deeply, etc.

BTMV? Be Thou My Vision (Irish, 6th Century-1600 years ago)

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Call to Action

- Decide/surrender: "I want to know God more deeply. I want to read the bible"
- Ask Holy Spirit: Please help me. And where is a good setting for me to call special for bible reading and listening
- Come get a bible, notebook, pen if you need to or want to
- Start. Just start. (Book of John?)



