Chapter 1: The Word of God - The Power That is in the Word of God

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. Proverbs, ESV. We all struggle sometimes. And, sometimes, all it takes to make the day better is a friendly encouragement.

In many translations of the Bible, when the word LORD is in all capitals, it signifies that the word represents the tetragrammaton. It means "Wonderful Teacher" in the Punjabi language. Waheguru is also described by some as an experience of ecstasy which is beyond all descriptions. The most common usage of the word "Waheguru" is in the greeting Sikhs use with each other: General conceptions Main article: Conceptions of God There is no clear consensus on the nature or the existence of God. The dharmic religions differ in their view of the divine: Many polytheistic religions share the idea of a creator deity, although having a name other than "God" and without all of the other roles attributed to a singular God by monotheistic religions. Jainism is polytheistic and non-creationist. Monotheists hold that there is only one god, and may claim that the one true god is worshiped in different religions under different names. God is described in the Quran as: In Islam, God is transcendent and does not resemble any of his creations in any way. Thus, Muslims are not iconodules, and are not expected to visualize God. Theism, Deism, and Pantheism Theism generally holds that God exists realistically, objectively, and independently of human thought; that God created and sustains everything; that God is omnipotent and eternal; and that God is personal and interacting with the universe through, for example, religious experience and the prayers of humans. Some theists ascribe to God a self-conscious or purposeful limiting of omnipotence, omniscience, or benevolence. Theism is sometimes used to refer in general to any belief in a god or gods, i. God exists, but does not intervene in the world beyond what was necessary to create it. Common in Deism is a belief that God has no interest in humanity and may not even be aware of humanity. Pandeism combines Deism with Pantheistic beliefs. The contemporaneous French philosopher Michel Henry has however proposed a phenomenological approach and definition of God as phenomenological essence of Life. Non-theistic views See also: Evolutionary origin of religions and Evolutionary psychology of religion Non-theist views about God also vary. Some non-theists avoid the concept of God, whilst accepting that it is significant to many; other non-theists understand God as a symbol of human values and aspirations. Stephen Jay Gould proposed an approach dividing the world of philosophy into what he called "non-overlapping magisteria" NOMA. In this view, questions of the supernatural, such as those relating to the existence and nature of God, are non - empirical and are the proper domain of theology. The methods of science should then be used to answer any empirical question about the natural world, and theology should be used to answer questions about ultimate meaning and moral value. In this view, the perceived lack of any empirical footprint from the magisterium of the supernatural onto natural events makes science the sole player in the natural world. Both authors claim however, that it is possible to answer these questions purely within the realm of science, and without invoking any divine beings. Anthropomorphism Pascal Boyer argues that while there is a wide array of supernatural concepts found around the world, in general, supernatural beings tend to behave much like people. The construction of gods and spirits like persons is one of the best known traits of religion. He cites examples from Greek mythology, which is, in his opinion, more like a modern soap opera than other religious systems. In line with this reasoning, psychologist Matt Rossano contends that when humans began living in larger groups, they may have created gods as a means of enforcing morality. In small groups, morality can be enforced by social forces such as gossip or reputation. However, it is much harder to enforce morality using social forces in much larger groups. Rossano indicates that by including ever-watchful gods and spirits, humans discovered an effective strategy for restraining selfishness and building more cooperative groups. Isaac Newton saw the existence of a Creator necessary in the movement of astronomical objects. Arguments about the existence of God typically include empirical, deductive, and inductive types. Different views include that: Lewis, and the Ontological Argument formulated both by St. Famed pantheist philosopher Baruch Spinoza would later carry this idea to its extreme:

In Query 31 of the Opticks, Newton simultaneously made an argument from design and for the necessity of intervention: For while comets move in very eccentric orbs in all manner of positions, blind fate could never make all the planets move one and the same way in orbs concentric, some inconsiderable irregularities excepted which may have arisen from the mutual actions of comets and planets on one another, and which will be apt to increase, till this system wants a reformation. Thomas believed that the existence of God is self-evident in itself, but not to us. Now because we do not know the essence of God, the proposition is not self-evident to us; but needs to be demonstrated by things that are more known to us, though less known in their natureâ€"namely, by effects. Thomas believed that the existence of God can be demonstrated. Briefly in the Summa theologiae and more extensively in the Summa contra Gentiles, he considered in great detail five arguments for the existence of God, widely known as the quinque viae Five Ways. For the original text of the five proofs, see quinque viae Motion: Some things undoubtedly move, though cannot cause their own motion. Since there can be no infinite chain of causes of motion, there must be a First Mover not moved by anything else, and this is what everyone understands by God. As in the case of motion, nothing can cause itself, and an infinite chain of causation is impossible, so there must be a First Cause, called God. Existence of necessary and the unnecessary: Our experience includes things certainly existing but apparently unnecessary. Not everything can be unnecessary, for then once there was nothing and there would still be nothing. Therefore, we are compelled to suppose something that exists necessarily, having this necessity only from itself; in fact itself the cause for other things to exist. If we can notice a gradation in things in the sense that some things are more hot, good, etc. This then, we call God Note: Thomas does not ascribe actual qualities to God Himself. Ordered tendencies of nature: A direction of actions to an end is noticed in all bodies following natural laws. Anything without awareness tends to a goal under the guidance of one who is aware. McGrath, argue that the existence of God is not a question that can be answered using the scientific method. Krauss and Sam Harris as evidence that God is an imaginary entity only, with no basis in reality. The assignment of these attributes often differs according to the conceptions of God in the culture from which they arise. For example, attributes of God in Christianity, attributes of God in Islam, and the Thirteen Attributes of Mercy in Judaism share certain similarities arising from their common roots. Names 99 names of Allah, in Chinese Sini script The word God is "one of the most complex and difficult in the English language. That the Bible "includes many different images, concepts, and ways of thinking about" God has resulted in perpetual "disagreements about how God is to be conceived and understood". One of them is Elohim. Another one is El Shaddai, translated "God Almighty". Many traditions see God as incorporeal and eternal, and regard him as a point of living light like human souls, but without a physical body, as he does not enter the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. God is seen as the perfect and constant embodiment of all virtues, powers and values and that he is the unconditionally loving Father of all souls, irrespective of their religion, gender, or culture.

Chapter 2: Good Word | a simple man of God

a simple man of God. Do we truly love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strengths? Maybe I can help with the mind part, at least! This is Daniel.

Not to mention, I had no idea how the stories wove together to create a larger story. How did it all fit together? How can he be a murderer and an adulterer, but God still say these precious words about him? What was the significance of the rainbow in the sky after God sent to flood to Noah? It has to be more than an opportunity to teach colors to a toddler, right? I think many of us would say that we want to know our Bibles. We may even be doing daily devotionals or going to church or participating in Bible studies. But we may also be wondering why we feel so ill-equipped, so lacking, so †confused perhaps? Too often we think knowing our Bible comes through osmosis. The ways you can go about deciding on or developing a plan to read varies. Ideas to get you thinking: Sometimes I use topical bible reading plans other times I need a study guide to take me through a book of the Bible and still other times I simply choose a book of the Bible to read through slowly. Last year I spent almost the entire year in 1 Corinthians! There are plenty of additional Bible study tools that can be helpful we love Logos for example, but discover additional Bible study tools as you go. The first thing to keep in mind is that the Bible is one big story that has several sub-stories written into it. But the key is to remember the book is about God. To read with purpose is to ask how this reveals God and His story! As you read, keep in mind the meta-narrative of the Bible. All scripture falls into one of these four parts of the meta-narrative: Just knowing where in this meta-narrative your particular study falls can change the way you read scripture. Search for these themes as your read. One of the things we hear often from others is this: How can I interpret the times the Bible was written in, into application for modern living? This is when reading with perspective becomes increasingly important. When deciding what book to sit on our nightstand, we rarely just blindly choose a book, right? We usually get the basic information about the book before we start. We may not always go through a written question and answer before reading a book, but we more or less know the answers to these questions before we begin reading! Whenever we sit down to study a section of the Bible, it is a good idea to answer these five questions: To whom was it written? In what style was it written? Why was it written? Getting the answers to these questions can be as simple as looking in your study Bible. These questions just help us do that. Pursue Bible study with patience. Not every season of life will lend itself to the depth of study you desire, just as not every area of study will come as easily to you as others will. Be patient and be willing to pick up the Word of God day after day, and just wrestle with it deep in your soul for the glory of God. Study with a process in mind. Finally, as you study you want to do so systematically, keeping a simple process in mind. You want to be able to answer the following three questions each time you sit down to study: What does it say? What does it mean? How should it change me? Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the scriptures to you, and ask Him to convict and change your heart for the glory of God! If you live where Bibles and freedom of religion reign, then getting into His word and knowing what it says is non-negotiable. There is no excuse. I recently did a survey of Intentional By Grace readers, and it was through this process that I realized what a privilege we have here in the states to be able to walk into just about any bookstore and have amazing resources at our fingertips. Not to mention a church building on every corner! But I also realize that even though we have these resources available, information overload can be paralyzing and knowing where to start can be daunting. We become what we behold, and may what we are beholding be Christ Jesus our Lord! What Bible study tips can you share with us? What are some of your favorite Bible study tools? Other posts you might be interested in:

Chapter 3: Favor Of God Bible Verse Fabulous Men and Boys Simple Foolish or Wise Ppt | The word of G

John Bunyan A Simple Man who Knew God Deeply Related Media (The following summary of Bunyan's life is culled from "Memoir of John Bunyan," by George Offor, who edited Bunyan's 3-volume Works [Baker], in volume 1.).

John Bunyan lived from in or near Bedford, England north of London. He authored 59 books, including his story of his own conversion, Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners. He spent 12 years in prison because he was not a member of the established Anglican Church, and he refused to stop preaching without the required license. Bunyan was born into a poor family and was not highly educated. As a young man, an ungodly woman heard him cursing and scolded him that he was the most ungodly fellow she had ever heard and that he would spoil all the youth in town if they came into his company. Her rebuke made a more indelible impression on him than all of the sermons that he had heard up to that point. Bunyan lived a very ungodly life, but the Lord was at work in convicting him of his sin. He would have fearful dreams and visions in the night of demons that made him cry out in his sleep. They were chatting about the joys of salvation and how their own righteousness was filthy and unable to save them. He took it all in and never forgot it. These and other such incidents led him to clean up his life and begin to be outwardly moral, but he had no rest for his soul. God had not yet changed his heart. These godly women attended a Baptist church in Bedford, and so Bunyan began attending there. The pastor, John Gifford, took him under wing. After going through terrible agony of soul for several years you can read about this in Grace Abounding, Bunyan finally found peace in Christ. As he grew in Christ, Bunyan served as a deacon, sensed an inward call to the ministry, and began to preach. The church recognized his gifts and publicly set him apart for the ministry of preaching the Word. Bunyan entered into this with a deep sense of his own unworthiness and with fear and trembling which we all should feel at all times! Sometimes up to a thousand people would gather secretly at midnight in a secluded spot, sometimes in driving hail or snow, to hear Bunyan expound the Word! Sometimes they met in barns or stables. He preached the truth boldly, which also meant confronting error. This, of course, made enemies among those who did not want to be exposed or corrected. Eventually, he was arrested because he did not use the Book of Common Prayer at his services and he was not preaching in the established church. His captors said that they would free him if he promised to stop preaching. It was a severe temptation, because Bunyan had a wife his second; his first wife had died and four children, including a blind daughter that he cared for deeply. The thought of not being able to provide for his family and care for this daughter tormented him. But he was faithful to his calling. The spirit of Christ and of glory then rests upon them. He would sometimes preach to 1, at 7 a. About 3, flocked to hear him preach in London. I go to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will, no doubt, through the mediation of his blessed Son, receive me, though a sinner; where I hope we ere long shall meet, to sing the new song, and remain everlastingly happy, world without end. While a formal education is valuable, the most important thing is to know Christ directly through His Word of truth. His grasp of biblical truth, gained simply by studying his English Bible with a concordance, is amazing. Even if you do not have a large library or access to many books, Bunyan shows that you can be a knowledgeable, accurate, powerful expositor of the Word. There are more riches to be mined out of a single verse of Scripture than most of us ever imagined, and we should present them simply, clearly, and powerfully. I admit that I would be hard pressed to write one sermon on that verse, much less a book, but Bunyan brings out insight after insight on what it means to have a broken and contrite heart before God. I gleaned a page of helpful quotes from this book and posted them on our church web site. Another book that has recently been re-published [Banner of Truth] is, Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ, which is an exposition of John 6: Some of his other titles are: Also, How the Lord Jesus addressed himself to this work: Objections to the contrary answered. Preaching can be heavily doctrinal and yet practical and interesting to the common person. Another is, A Treatise on the Fear of God. Another is, Of Justification by an Imputed Righteousness. All of these are meaty, doctrinal expositions, but they were preached to common, largely uneducated people who flocked by the hundreds and even thousands

to hear them. Let us do likewise! As you are able, write the insights that God has entrusted to you. This lesson is true of each of the men that we will study. If they had not written, we would hardly know of them. Because they committed their works to paper, we can still read them and grow in the Lord through their insights. It is very difficult, at least in the U. The competition is incredible, and the publishers want things that will sell on a popular level. I once met a Zondervan publishing representative and asked him how I could get my sermons published. Criswell or James Boice. They are the only two men whose sermons we will publish. Sometime after that, I met Dr. Boice and told him what the Zondervan representative had said to me. I asked him how an unknown nobody like me could get my sermons published. He sympathetically acknowledged the problem. The discipline of writing helps me to be concise, focused, and clear. The Internet provided a way for me to get them out of the drawer and put them in a place where people can access them. While it is not as visible as being published in a book, I do get emails from people all over the world, thanking me for the sermons, and sometimes sharing with me how God has used them in their lives. At the very least, you can use them with your own congregation and they can even be used in your own life.

Chapter 4: October | | a simple man of God

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew | NIV | food listening In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pulpit Commentary Verse The credulous fool believes all that he hears without proof or examination; having no fixed principles of his own, he is at the mercy of any adviser, and is easily led astray. Many who despise the miraculous teaching of the Bible accept the follies and frauds of spiritualism comp. The prudent man considers whither the advice given will lead him, always acts with deliberation. This maxim is attributed to Pythagoras - "Let none persuade thee by his word or deed To say or do what is not really good; And before action well deliberate, Lest thou do foolishly. The Vulgate here introduces the Septuagint addition in Proverbs Matthew Henry Commentary Here are grace and sin in their true colours. Pride grows from that root of bitterness which is in the heart. The root must be plucked up, or we cannot conquer this branch. The prudent words of wise men get them out of difficulties. There can be no advantage without something which, though of little moment, will affright the indolent. A conscientious witness will not dare to represent anything otherwise than according to his knowledge. A scorner treats Divine things with contempt. He that feels his ignorance and unworthiness will search the Scriptures in a humble spirit. We discover a wicked man if there is no savour of piety in his discourse. The bad man cheats himself, and goes on in his mistake. Foolish and profane men consider sin a mere trifle, to be made light of rather than mourned over. Fools mock at the sin-offering; but those that make light of sin, make light of Christ. We do not know what stings of conscience, or consuming passions, torment the prosperous sinner. Nor does the world know the peace of mind a serious Christian enjoys, even in poverty and sickness. Sin ruins many great families; whilst righteousness often raises and strengthens even mean families. The ways of carelessness, of worldliness, and of sensuality, seem right to those that walk in them; but self-deceivers prove self-destroyers. See the vanity of carnal mirth. Of all sinners backsliders will have the most terror when they reflect on their own ways. Eager readiness to believe what others say, has ever proved mischievous. The whole world was thus ruined at first. The man who is spiritually wise, depends on the Saviour alone for acceptance. Holy fear guards against every thing unholy. An angry man is to be pitied as well as blamed; but the revengeful is more hateful.

Chapter 5: Questions & answers - Is the Word "simple"?

I can be in a relationship with God, because of God. I can be saved from my wretched sinful state, because of God. Paul will go on to tell us later in the same chapter (Ephesians 2) that we are created for good works, but it is God that has truly transformed our lives.

Related Media 1 John 5: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life. The question is, how can a person have the Son of God? According to Romans 5: Why did Christ have to die for us? Because Scripture declares all men to be sinful. In other words, our sin separates us from God who is perfect holiness righteousness and justice and God must therefore judge sinful man. The Futility of Our Works Scripture also teaches that no amount of human goodness, human works, human morality, or religious activity can gain acceptance with God or get anyone into heaven. The moral man, the religious man, and the immoral and non-religious are all in the same boat. After discussing the immoral man, the moral man, and the religious man in Romans 1: Added to this are the declarations of the following verses of Scripture: No amount of human goodness is as good as God. God is perfect righteousness. Because of this, Habakkuk 1: In order to be accepted by God, we must be as good as God is. Before God, we all stand naked, helpless, and hopeless in ourselves. No amount of good living will get us to heaven or give us eternal life. What then is the solution? Because of His love and grace, He has not left us without hope and a solution. This is the good news of the Bible, the message of the gospel. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. This means we must each come to God the same way: If you would like to receive and trust Christ as your personal Savior, you may want to express your faith in Christ by a simple prayer acknowledging your sinfulness, accepting His forgiveness and putting your faith in Christ for your salvation. If you have just trusted in Christ, you need to learn about your new life and how to walk with the Lord. So if you do not see your language listed below, please translate it and send us a note to http: We will reply with an email address you can send attachments to. To help us create translated graphics, here is a document with the words from the graphics. Translate these words and we will make new graphics for your translation of the text.

Chapter 6: 49 Bible Verses about the Word of God - blog.quintoapp.com

In this video we will talk about why the quran is not the word of God, we are told that every religion is valid or not to judge other people. Which in this video I am not but.

June 26, Question A visitor which we shall call "Mr. The e-mail hinted that our answer should have been "simple" since the original question was "simple". This reminded us of certain things which the Lord has spoken to us regarding "simplicity". In essence, the issue can be boiled down to the following question: Answer Is it simple? In my walk as a Christian, I have found certain believers who sincerely believe in the slogan, "Keep it simple". When a new understanding of the Word challenges them to a level that goes beyond the comfort zone of their current precepts, they simply dismiss that new understanding by saying: Christianity is then reduced to a few simple principles and to the performing of a few simple activities. Once these few things are mastered, there is nothing left to do but wait for the "Rapture Spacecraft" to beam us up into Heaven where we will live happily ever after. There are two terrible problems with this view. The first problem can be discerned from the following passage: Consider how many years of college are required to begin to comprehend the variety of flora and fauna on Earth. Consider how many years of college are required to begin to understand the interaction of the different chemical elements. Consider how many years of college are required for a physician to begin to understand the complexity of the human body. Consider how many years of college are required for a physicist to begin to understand the intricate laws that govern the universe. All these things are inherently complex, yet they were all made by the Word of God. If the Word of God were inherently "simple", it would have been impossible for such a complex universe to have been made by the Word of God. A second problem with the "Keep it simple" view can be seen from the following passage: When Paul moved in the wisdom given unto him v16, he at times wrote "complex" things. Because, as you and I grow in the wisdom of God, we grow in spiritual complexity. The Spirit refers to two types of people who twist the complex wisdom of God: The unlearned The word "unlearned" in verse 16 was translated from the Greek word amathes. At first sight, it would seem as if the Lord is using it to refer to people with no "formal" education. However, we must remember that the words of 2 Peter 3: Therefore, no "formal" education is required by God for a believer to move in the wisdom and anointing of God. What, then, did the Lord mean by the word amathes "unlearned" in 2 Peter 3: The word amathes is derived from the prefix "a" meaning, "without, lacking", and the word manthano meaning, "to learn", from which the Greek word for "disciple", mathetes is derived. Therefore, amathes speaks of a person who lacks the learning heart of a disciple. Therefore, to be a true disciple requires humility. It means saying to the teacher, "I do not know certain things; can you teach me? In our case, our teacher is the anointing of the Holy Spirit: In order to do that, the Lord may at times send a brother or sister in Christ, and the anointing in him or her will teach you. As we have said before, the anointing is not discerned through external religious titles but through the witness of the Holy Spirit inside of you. If you belittle the anointing on account of the weak vessel that contains it, you will be unable to learn. People who are too proud are spiritually unteachable because they are never willing to sit at the feet of others, especially when that "other" appears "weak" to the natural mind. Despite the fact that a learning heart requires humility, it also requires another element, as shown by what the Lord Jesus said to His disciples: Since Jesus was saying this to His own disciples, He was implicitly saying the following to them: I am the Standard, and you are called to grow into My exact likeness so that we may be One for eternity. The willingness to submit to the teaching of another Confidence: The assurance that one has the potential to be like the teacher at the end of his or her training As we said above, the "unlearned" of 2 Peter 3: They are not humble enough to submit themselves to the teaching of the Spirit, and they are uninterested in entering into the fullness of God. The unstable The word "unstable" in 2 Peter 3: Therefore, an "unstable" person is a person without a truth anchor, i. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. Such people are not interested in "winning arguments", per se, but to believe in things that are consistent with the truth. Such

people are "fact seekers". In the case of believers, our source of truth is the Written Scripture and the prophetic witness of the Holy Spirit regarding that Written Scripture. Christianity is not intended to be a bunch of believers running around like blind mice, each one with some fuzzy and variant view of what the Truth is. If that were the case, Christianity would be nothing but another pathetic belief system invented by man. There is an independent, absolute Truth, and that Truth is readily available to the believers who seek after it: He speaks to us words of truth that He Himself hears from an external, "independent" source!!! In my years as a Christian, I have come across many believers both "pastors" and "non-pastors" who sincerely believe certain things but who are unwilling to admit their mistake when confronted Scripturally. They see all the Scriptural evidence as annoying hindrances to their point of view, and they simply shove the evidence aside and restate their false point of view. They are not interested in knowing the truth. They just want to "win the argument", and they would much rather deceive themselves before ever having to humbly admit that they are wrong. Since such people are not anchored in the truth, they become like unstable boats that are taken to and fro by "soul winds" that take their "version of the gospel" to the places that are pleasant to their carnal soul. Whenever their soul feels "uncomfortable" because of a "new" truth presented to them, they simply extend their sails and allow the "soul winds" to take them where they feel "comfortable". On the other hand, those who seek after the truth expose their sails to the "Spirit winds" and allow their boats to be taken to places where they may be temporarily uncomfortable. Those who are "unstable" expose their sails to the "soul winds" that take them to places where they will be temporarily comfortable, without realizing that, by doing so, they are dooming their eternal calling in Christ, for only truth and righteousness abide forever. Complex roots Sometimes a simple question has a complex issue hidden underneath. Consider the blind man of John chapter 9: He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. Why did He send him to the pool of Siloam? Remember, the man was blind, and he had to go all the way to the pool on his own. He had to get up, ask around, and walk with clay on his eyes until he found the pool of Siloam and could wash in it. Notice that Jesus did not commission Peter, James, and John to accompany the blind man so that he would easily find the pool either. Why did Jesus put him through all of that? Because spiritual issues were being "untangled" as he did all of this. Notice that Jesus did not ask for some water to make clay from the ground. He did not even gently remove saliva from His mouth using His finger in order to wet the dirt. He spat on the ground, and, as we have shared before, spitting in ancient times and even today is a sign of reproach and rejection Numbers As we have also said before, "dirt" or "ground" is related to the Girgashite spirit of earthliness, which causes people to understand the Word of God in a literal, earthly way because they only focus on what their natural minds can see and are not open to the prophetic leading of the Spirit. Therefore, by spitting on the ground, Jesus was saying, "I abhor the Girgashite spirit that leads My people to understand My Word in a literal way. By doing so, they have kept My remnant in a state of physical impotence. Instead of going, "Yuck!! When Jesus told him to go wash in the "pool of Siloam" v7, the blind man did not stick around to ask Jesus for a " logical "explanation as to why he had to go all the way to the pool of Siloam. He was willing to do something that went beyond the logic of his natural mind, which proves that this man was open to the prophetic winds of the Holy Spirit. Even though he was physically blind, his prophetic vision was very clear. As verse 7 declares, "Siloam" is the Hebrew word for "sent". He was willing to be sent wherever God wanted to send him in order to bear suffering for the sake of others. This is why he was willing, even from the womb of his mother, to be physically blind for years in order to serve as a redeemer for the spiritual blindness of others: Instead, he or she will seek after them. Such a believer will be willing to make judgments so that others may be restored, and will be willing to suffer through journeys of desert judgment for the sake of others. Therefore, the blind man not only had prophetic vision; he had apostolic eyes that were able to see the God of judgments and justice. These are the spiritual reasons why Jesus did not simply lay His hands on the blind man and heal him. Through his physical blindness, the man of John chapter 9 served to expose the spiritual blindness of others. Those who are denounced as "blind" and "sinful" by the religious establishment will be vindicated in the eyes of their enemies, and they will serve to denounce the blindness of men who have simplified His Gospel,

reducing it to vain precepts that yield no spiritual fruit. And they cast him out" John 9: According to John 7: Since Jesus had not "risen through the ranks" of the religious structures they recognized, they simplistically dismissed this "new" prophet as "irrelevant". In the same way, many believers reject new truths that are revealed to them, simply because they go outside the bounds of the few truths they have limited their lives to. Instead of growing in the complexity of wisdom, they dismiss everything new and challenging as "false". Their motto is, "If it does not fit into our simplified scheme of thinking, it must be false". This is why the religious leaders were unable to believe in Jesus, even when He had just healed a man who was blind from birth. Instead, he confronted them in the apostolic wisdom of God; he acted as a spiritual pestilence under the "red-horse" anointing. Instead of humbly recognizing the truths he was speaking, they arrogantly belittled his teaching v34, and cast him out. And he worshipped him. In other words, Jesus was not referring to physical vision. He was saying to him, "You have seen me with your prophetic eyes, and you were able to discern the prophetic anointing inside of Me even before you were able to see me with your physical eyes".

Chapter 7: Find Peace and Joy by Living the Simple Life

"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians).

The explanations for their existence are clear in hindsight; they are, and always have been, intended to explain the unknowable to those who have never grown comfortable to the thought of doubtâ€"which, admittedly, is many of us, this author included. We began with dozens, perhaps hundreds of gods who oversaw the myriad forces of nature such as Zeus, the god of thunder, and Anubis, the god of the underworld. So the next time a creationist tells you evolution is a myth, explain to him or her that religion has itself evolved from simple roots. A mental manifestation, crafted to satisfy our basic needs of closure and certainty, which subsequently evolved, for a few, into their base needs of power and control. Many debates, arguments, attacks, and various other means of communication have been devoted to the exploration, explanation, and examination of these two opposing, and seemingly immovable trains of thought. During any one of these communications, the inevitable questions will arise: At face value, it seemingly passes the rigor of logic, but digging past that shallow veneer shows it as nothing more than the aforementioned word magic, and leaves one pondering the question: So where did the Universe come from? Where did God come from? Many will claim that He just is and always has been, using such words as timeless, uncaused, and infinite, etc. Otherwise known as the Cosmological Argument, or to philosophers of religion, a weak, and to some, wrong version of the Cosmological Argument. The crux of the Cosmological Argument goes something like this: Hope that made sense. But then how is this different from the immaterial and non-sentient! Quantum Field of Quantum Field Theory discussed in the previous chapter that invariably, and mechanistically, creates something from a redefined nothing? It does not, indeed cannot, provide a basis or proof of God except to metaphorically describe that immaterial process as God, which all by itself, invalidates all religions, based as they are on a personal, caring, infinitely powerful, and intruding deity. Or if the Universe did indeed have a cause, then why cannot that cause be natural, as particle physicist Victor Stenger suggests. Why immediately leap to the conclusion that it was supernatural? Even were Quantum Field Theory to have no say-so on the matter, how are we to say, with confidence, that the Universe has not the reason for its own existence inherently within it? Or that the Quantum Field has the reason for its own existence within? The Universe, from where we sit inside it, seemingly already violates, certain fundamental laws we take, ironically, as universal! For example, we know, thanks to Edwin Hubble that space-time is expanding, and thanks to Einstein, that the speed of light is the fundamental upper speed-limit of the Universe. No matter how close to the speed of light you travel, were you to shine a light in the direction you were traveling, the shining light would travel away from you at the speed of light! With a big enough telescope, looking in any direction from Earth, you would eventually come upon a distance or time since they are intertwined, where you could see no further now this distance is blocked by the Big Bang, but the model still applies. If you go out far enough, so much space is being created that the speed of light cannot travel the interceding distance, similar to laying down an infinite railroad track in front of an incoming train so efficiently that the train never reaches the end, and the more you build, the faster you can lay down new tracks, until observers on the train can no longer see the end of the track and never again will. So while the speed of light is immutable, the Universe is not bound to it. Just as many arguments for God are contingent on cause-and-effect to be applicable at the universal inception, they are really only assuming it to be true. Cause-and-effect, so relevant inside the Universe, does not necessarily bound itself to the Universe as a whole. Moving onto the Judeo-Christian God, which is where a lot of earthly troubles manifest themselves, guised as religion. Before moving forward; I do not mean to insinuate that religious belief is fundamentally wrong, neither god belief, and to be fair, unbelief. Clearly, two of the three options are wrong, and that why recently, there has been a struggle for the intellectual high-ground, which at the very

least, is a vast improvement on past debatesâ€"shunning, burning, murders though this still happens in some parts of the world. With that said, moving on. Assuming a God exists for the following section. With our current incomplete scientific picture, there are two ways that exist today that attempt to explain the Universe there are more but they mainly differ in detail, not scope. There is the Theistic picture and the Deistic picture, henceforth referred to as Options T and D, both of which attempt to use the Big Bang model to explain God. They are then subjected to differing interpretations, numerous mistranslations, and selective understanding leading to division, conflict, repression, discrimination, war, and genocide, along with the singular benefits of social cohesion to those who share a similar worldview and perhaps inner peace. Through these actions, He limits these theologies to a geographic area of no more than a few thousand kilometers in diameter. He created the Universe and set within it, laws for it to be governed autonomously and without exception, such as gravity, electromagnetism, chemistry et al. We are forever subjected to these absolute forces, over which none have any control or any choice but to obey. Neither can any one or being accidentally or otherwise, mistranslate the intended meaning of such laws without volunteering for Darwinian de-selection, nor have they the power to place themselves above these laws, rendering all objects in the Universe which He created, equal before the physical laws under every and all circumstances. All are forever bound to these laws and they to us, and nothing can or ever will change that. He sends three books instead of one. He sends His revelations to a few instead of to all, relegating revelation to hearsay which would have removed any doubt forever and always. By doing it in the manner He chose too, shows a willful intent to cause the repression, subdivision, misunderstanding, corruption, and wars that inevitability followed. But He loves us, so to some, that somehow makes it better, betraying yet another imperfect human emotion. And does not option D sound like the majestic masterpiece that the Universe actually is? The mind of a scientist is not needed to recognize the inherent beauty of the Universe or the fallacies inherent in option T; it requires only an open mind, one that is open to the evidence that is inherent all around us. The evidence that He put there, if we are to follow this conclusion through to its logical end. Going further still, why does the Universe need a God for its creation? By demanding the Universe had a beginning which it does only by our perspective of time, which, if you recall from high school physics is not absolute, but relative, then God by simple extension of logic, must also have had a beginning at one pointâ€"unless, of course! God also has a One True God. If He had no God of his own, how could his intelligence be instantiated? If He is formless, timeless, and causeless, then how can he be intelligent or have thoughts, intent, and purpose? How did he go from zero to sixty, without first passing through one through fifty-nine. Option T does not add up under any circumstances, no matter whether it is dressed up as the cosmological argument, which merely involves passing the buck to God without applying the same scrutiny to God as to creation, or as the teleological argument from design, which shows an ignorance of probability. As David Duetsch writes in his book, The Beginning of Infinity, a good theory is an explanation that is hard to vary while still describing reality, and all religious arguments fail this basic test, because they are too easy to vary, and all too often, fail to describe reality no matter which way they are varied of course, they can describe reality by accident as sometimes happens. Not only that, but during discussions, the goal posts are often moved around and around, back and forth, this way or that way, bending inwards and outwards, all to rationalize why the Universe is like this and not like that. But if you are the victim of this prank, you cannot win arguing against this logic, yet this is the logic of a theist, whether they know it or not, when they try to explain away or gloss over, the many fallacies inherent in a creationist, biblical, or godly universe, instead of just recognizing the Universe for what it is, and that God simply is not required or even necessary it might still be possible, but to postulate God is too not answer or theorize a good explanation to the question in the first place. Merely postulating a creator, especially a personal one, adds a burdensome step to the equation, an unsolvable step no less! This brings me finally to a simple explanation of God. What we think of, as God, is simply an anthropomorphized Universe. The God of Spinoza, Einstein called it, after the philosopher Benedict Spinoza, who viewed the Universe and God as one and the same thing. Though I prefer to go one step further and call the latter a mistranslation. But be that as it may, out of one, sprang forth

Religion, and out of the other, Physics. The other is mostly right and self-correcting, with time, revealing more of objective reality though never quite reaching. But the difference between the two foundations seemingly, is semantic. God was a way to bring humankind in touch with the mystery of the Universe, in a way that our brains could understand, namely; a face, a name, emotion, and human-like qualities, but as history has shown us, that romanticized history and explanatory effect has been woefully mistranslated and led to a wide-range of social ills, in the form of institutionalized religion. No longer is it rooted in word magic, deception, misdirection, or over-complications. By removing those unwanted, shortsighted, and anthropic layers, what remains is our beautiful, majestic, and seemingly infinite Universe, formerly anthropomorphized to fit our preconceived notions and assumptions and perhaps evolutionary needs, instead of accepting it for what it is much as we have done since the dawn of civilization, and perhaps even farther back since the invention of language. The Earth was Gaia, or Mother Nature. The sea was Poseidon, or Neptune. Thunder was the wrath of Zeus. Each culture had its similar explanations, and each of them, was subsequently wrong, or very occasionally, right by accident. The Universe is far grander, far more beautiful, and far more exquisite than the feeble mental construct we have of an aging white man who while perfect, infallibly exhibits our full range of imperfect emotions, lacks the foresight to see the ramifications that stem from His own judgments and decisions in regard to the human cost in lives, limbs, and liesâ€"much as we have done to ourselves since the dawn of civilization. It is no great leap to say that the Judeo-Christian God was created in our image, rather than we in His. Our creator is here for all to see, everywhere and always present, in every nook and in every cranny, in all our lives, making up our being, visible through a telescope and under a microscope, everywhere and anywhere you look in this grand design of our Universe. Or did we invent God? After all, if the original intent of a god or gods was to explain the unknowable, then its meaning is finite in its separation from reality, in a dynamic, knowledge-building society that is, as is ours. We can see a clear progression in the meaning of God from before the common era, to now. Then, around the Babylonian Exodus, God became the cause of everything, including especially us. Then Darwin came along and gave us the beautiful theory of evolution, though some then argued that evolution was divinely guided. Then Physics and through it; the Big Bang and Inflation came along, and God became God of the ever-evolving and decreasing Gaps relegated and demoted to ever-decreasing pockets of scientific ignorance. While there will always be more to learn, we can and I feel need too trump the psychological need for the Abrahamic god as an end all, be all to understanding our origins and our Universe. While it will never be possible to fully disprove God you cannot prove a negative, what science has given us is an alternative, not to mention, more plausible explanation. How our Universeâ€"an immaterial entityâ€"was responsible for our creation, as accidentally inevitable as it may have been and the creation of all and everything that ever was, and came to be, is nothing short of a beautiful mystery. We may never know why, but to say a god did it is a poor explanation. But if by God one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God is emotionally unsatisfyingâ€it does not make much sense to pray to the law of gravity.

Chapter 8 : The Simplest Explanation of God â€" Random Rationality

Perhaps the Christian today is lacking in these qualities, but this is what simple religion is all aboutâ€"the simple religion that is yet sufficient to please God: helping those in distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world (James).

God is Simple Catholic Teaching: God is not composed or divisible by any physical or metaphysical means. Simplicity of God refers to the fact that he has no parts. The simplicity teaching extends to the entire nature of God. His substance, nature, and very being is that of utter simplicity. The properties usually attributed to God such as omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence do not contradict the teaching of simplicity because each property is a different way of looking at the infinite active being of God from a limited perspective. One consequence of this teaching is the fact that since God is simple, he must be a pure spirit. Definition of the Dogma: The dogma of simplicity follows from the teachings of the 4th Lateran Council and the first Vatican Council which stated that God is an absolutely simple substance or nature. Heresies which reject or confuse this teaching: Anthropomorphism the heresy of believing God has a body violates the dogma of simplicity. Anthropomorphism, latent in Mormonism, paganism and polytheism fails to consider the fact that God exists in complete and total actuality. Since God has not unrealized potentiality in the metaphysical sense, he cannot possibly have parts or a body. The creations of God can play no part in his metaphysical being without violating his simplicity. Philosophical Proof from St. Every composite must have potentiality and actuality P2. God is entirely actual. God is not composite and therefore simple. Whatever is from God must imitate him. The world and its beings are not simple and therefore neither is God. It is of the essence of a thing to be composite. Hence simplicity cannot be attributed to a created thing as it can to God whose nature is that of utter existence. Any thing that is composite is better than something that is simple as a hand is to man. Since God is of the hightest order he must be composite rather than simple. The statement that composites are better than simplicity is true only for created beings because they cannot be altogether simple. Therefore we must look for perfection in many things. However, perfection of a divine goodness is found in one simple thing God.

Chapter 9: 6 Simple Steps to Get Started Studying God's Word - Your Intentional Family

The Wise Woman 14 The backslider in heart will have the fill of his own ways, but a good man will be rewarded for his. 15 The simple man believes every word, but the prudent man watches his steps. 16 A wise man fears and turns from evil, but a fool is careless and reckless..

Michael Bradley The first thing each and every Christian must fully realize is that the Holy Bible is truly the inspired and infallible Word of God. There are many liberal Christians who are starting to question the validity and authenticity of the Bible. I will not use this article to debate the origins of the Bible, all of the authors who wrote the books, and how the different translations came into being. There are plenty of good books at your local Christian bookstore that deal with this topic very extensively. After studying the Bible in its complete entirety â€" there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that all of the Bible is God-breathed â€" that all of it has come directly to us from God the Father through the Holy Spirit. For those of you who believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible, and that all of it has truly come to us from God the Father. I will use this article to give you some extremely powerful verses from Scripture to show you that not only did all of the Bible come direct to us from God the Father through the Holy Spirit to all of the authors who wrote all 66 books of the Bible â€" but I will also give you some powerful verses from the Bible showing you how powerful the actual words of the Bible really are, and how they can also help to change and transform you into the kind of person that God really wants you to become in Him. The actual words of the Bible are anointed by the Holy Spirit Himself â€" and they have the full ability to completely change and transform you if you are willing to work with the divine truths that are contained in the actual words. Jesus says in the Bible that you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. However, you first have to know what the real truth is before the truth can start to work to set you free. This is why Kind David said we must meditate on the words of the Bible â€" so we can find out what their true meaning is and how all of these divine truths can apply to our daily lives. Meditating on the Bible means to think about, to chew on, to try and figure out the meaning of all of the different verses in the Bible. Though the Book is long, God has made it as simple and easy as He possibly could. There is only one Bible. In one Book, God has given us everything we need to know about Himself, His Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the basics of our salvation through His Son Jesus, how He wants us to live this life, the things that He wants us doing, and the things that He does not want us to be doing. In this one Book are all the ways and commandments of our Lord, along with all the information we are ever going to need on what is awaiting all of us on the other side when we die and cross over â€" heaven for the saved and hell for the unsaved. I believe the number one reason God created the human race was for intimate fellowship. Even to the amazement of the angels in heaven, God seems to have some type of special longing and love for the human race. The fact that God would send His one and only Son Jesus down to our earth in the flesh to go through the worst form of physical death at the time He came, all just to bring us back to Himself, really does show us how much God really does love all of us. With this kind of intense, passionate love that God has for all of us, I believe He is trying to tell all of us one main thing â€" and that one main thing is that He is looking to enter into a one-on-one, personal, love relationship with each one of us. Think about this â€" that the one and only all-powerful God of the entire universe is looking to make a direct, personal connection with you on an individual and unique basis. If you really step back and look at the big picture and all the things that we see in this life â€" what is the one thing that most of us long for in this life? What is the one thing that will make you cry when you see this portrayed on the movie screens? It is the longing for a true soul mate. It is the longing for a pure, true, and unconditional love from a person of the opposite sex. There is nothing that can satisfy the deeper longings of your soul the way that true love can. However, there is just one small catch with this scenario. Even though some of you may have found your true soul mates in this life, there is still one more thing that has not been met. No matter how perfect you think your mate may be â€" your mate is still not perfect like God is, since the Bible tells us that all men and women have sinned and have fallen way short of

the glory of our God. What this means is that no matter how good of a love relationship you may have with your mate, that person is still not capable of giving you a perfect love because that person is not perfect in their very nature and personality. Thus, every single one of us still has that little hole in our soul that just cannot seem to be filled with anything else in our lives. No matter how much money we have, no matter how many material possessions we have, and no matter how many loving children we have â€" there is still something missing and none of these things can completely fill that little hole that is in all of our souls. God has purposely left a vacuum, a hole, and a void in each one of our souls when He created us. There is absolutely nothing else on this earth that can fill that empty void. People are literally chasing after the wind trying to find anything and everything to fill that void â€" and no matter how many lovers they have, no matter how many marriages they enter into, and no matter how many toys they buy with the money they have â€" nothing they chase after in this life will fill that hole in their souls. The only thing that will fill that hole in your soul is finding, and then entering into a true, personal, love relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. There is nothing else that will fill that void! Since God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are totally perfect in Their actual natures and have no dark side to Their personalities, then They, and only They, are the only Ones who are capable of giving you a perfect, pure, and unconditional love that no one else can give you in this life. This is why the Bible tells us that we will find a peace that will pass all human understanding once we have accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior and have become truly born again. That peace we will find is the result of finding the one true Person who can fill that empty void that is on the inside of each and everyone of us â€" and that one Person is God Almighty Himself. However, once you have found God through accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, there is now something you must do. You must now grow in the knowledge of God and grow in the personal relationship that He wants to establish with you. And how do you start to grow in the personal relationship He wants to establish with you and grow in the knowledge that He wants you to have about Him? By diving head first into the Bible! When two lovers first meet and fall in love with one another, the first thing they naturally and instinctively want to do is to learn as much as they can about one another. How can you truly fall in love with another person unless you first seek to know everything you can about your lover, their past, where they have been, what they have been through, who are all of their friends and family, etc. Once you really fall into true love with someone, you will have a major hunger and desire to find out as much as you can about them and their past. God obviously knows everything about each one of us since He is all-knowing, but we do not know everything about Him, His Son, or His Spirit. So the only possible way that we can learn all about God is to read and study from the Bible, since the Bible is the only Book that we have down here on this earth that will give us detailed information as to who the Three of Them really are. If a true, born-again, Spirit-filled Christian is really in love with God, and really wants to deepen the personal relationship they have now established with Him â€" then the first thing that person will really want to do is to get into the Bible so that they can find out everything they possibly can about this awesome God of ours. The more knowledge you gain about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit from studying the Bible â€" the stronger and deeper your personal relationship will become with the Three of Them. As you will see in the Scripture verses listed below, there are several other incredible things that will start to occur in your life if you seek to study the Bible with the intentions on wanting to learn more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in order to deepen your personal relationship Them. I will break these Scripture verses down under their appropriate captions below so you can see how powerful the Word of God really is, and how it can help change and transform the quality of your life if you are willing to study, learn, and seek to apply the divine truths that are in this incredible Book. Study these verses very, very carefully. These verses are showing you how powerful and anointed the Bible really is. In other words â€" all of the words in the Bible have come direct to us from God the Father through the Holy Spirit. The specific authors of the Bible then wrote under the guidance, inspiration, and illumination of the Holy Spirit. God Himself has personally arranged that all of the revelation that He wants us to have in this life about Himself, His Son Jesus, and His Holy Spirit would all be contained in this one incredible Book. Here are

the two specific verses giving us this incredible revelation: The second verse then takes it one step further and tells us that the holy men of God who wrote the Bible, all wrote under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit Himself. It also says that no part of Scripture was of any private interpretation of these authors. The first verse also lays out the groundwork as to what the Bible is going to be used for â€" for establishing solid Christian doctrine in the real truths of God, and for instruction in the knowledge and ways of God so that we may all be made complete and thoroughly equipped to go to work for God in the calling that He has set up for each one of our lives. These two specific verses are powerful, foundational verses in which our study of Scripture has to be based on. If you do not believe that all of the Bible is truly the inspired and infallible Word of God â€" then the Holy Spirit is not going to move on you to start to really work the truths that are contained in the Bible to change, mold, and transform you into the kind of person that God wants you to become in Him. Bottom line â€" if you want the divine truths that are contained in the Bible to really be able to change and transform you â€" then you will have to believe that all of the Bible comes direct to us from God the Father through the Holy Spirit. If you do not, then the Bible will have little or no transforming effect on you and your life. The Word of God is Living and Powerful As you will see in the following verses, the words that are contained in the Bible are living, powerful, and sharper than any two edge sword we can make on this earth. They are literally anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit Himself. This is why the words and the truths contained in the Bible have the supernatural ability to change and transform you into the kind of person that God wants you to become in Him. When you read and study the Bible for increased learning, you are feeding yourself with direct anointed words from God Almighty Himself. Many Christians who do not regularly feed off the Bible have no idea on what they are really missing out on. The Words that are in the Bible are pure, solid, spiritual food that have the supernatural ability to feed your mind, soul, and spirit. Nothing else will feed your inner man like reading from the Bible will. Just like our human physical bodies need physical food to be able to survive â€" so does our mind, soul, and spirit. The food that we feed our physical bodies will not nourish our mind, soul, and spirits. The only thing that can spiritually feed and nourish us on the inside are true, solid, spiritual truths. And the only true, solid, spiritual truths that can feed us to cause any kind of true spiritual growth to occur in this life are divine truths that come direct from God the Father and Jesus Christ. There are no other spiritual truths from any other sources that we can feed off of that will cause any kind of true spiritual growth to occur in this life. Any other source is just dead meat. It has no supernatural life or ability to change us because it is not coming direct from God the Father and thus has no anointing on it. All other false religions and New Age type thinking have no supernatural ability to change and spiritually transform you in this life. Only the divine truths that are contained in the Bible have this supernatural ability. Now here are 9 major power verses showing you how much supernatural life and power there really is in the Word of God. What He is trying to tell us is that when you are studying the words that are contained in the Bible for increased learning â€" you are spiritually feeding yourself with supernatural nutrition! I believe that all of the above Scripture verses are trying to tell us one main thing â€" that the Word of God is living, powerful, and real spiritual food for the soul and spirit of every person who is willing to feed off of it. If God is all-perfect and all-powerful, then this means His intelligence and knowledge on all things is all-perfect. And if His knowledge on all things is all-perfect, then this means that all of the words that He is conveying to us in the Bible can be counted on as being perfect words, thereby giving us perfect knowledge. The Bible tells us that all humans will only know in part with what knowledge we are able to gain down here on this earth. Thus every book you read from human authors will never be totally perfect in the knowledge that the author is trying to transmit to you. However, since all of the Bible is coming direct to us from God Almighty Himself â€" then the Bible is the only Book that we have down here on this earth that is totally and completely perfect in the knowledge that it is trying to transmit to us. This is why the Bible has the ability to change your life. No other book on this earth has the amount of wisdom and knowledge that this Book has â€" and this is all because this knowledge and wisdom is coming direct to us from God the Father Himself. Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the

goodness of the Lord. Your word is truth. This is why the Word of God is also called infallible and inerrant. If the Bible says that a thing is so $\hat{a} \in$ " then it is so $\hat{a} \in$ " end of discussion. You can literally bank your life on it! It is the job of the Holy Spirit to start this molding, transforming, and sanctifying work in us after we get saved.