

Growing Deep and Strong

®**GROWING DEEP AND STRONG** -----*Series*-----

Written by

Carl John Fechner

Published by
®Growing Deep and Strong Pty Ltd
ACN 655 937 349

Copyright © 2002-2022 and Trademark owned by author and Publisher

**Carl John Fechner
and ®Growing Deep and Strong Pty Ltd**

Under International copyright law, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted by any means- electronic, mechanical, photographic (photocopy), recording or otherwise- without written permission from the publisher.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version, copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

For sales and further information contact

Growing Deep and Strong
PO Box 1488 Bairnsdale
Victoria 3875
Australia
info@growingdeepandstrong.com
www.growingdeepandstrong.com

Growing Deep and Strong

©LAYING THE FOUNDATION

MODULE 1

MODULE 1.....	2
HOW TO READ YOUR NEW BIBLE.....	2
A) <i>WE CALL GOD’S MANUAL, THE BIBLE.</i>	2
B) <i>THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE</i>	3
C) <i>THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE</i>	3
D) <i>“SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE”</i>	4
E) <i>BIBLE INDEX</i>	4
F) <i>BOOK INTRODUCTION</i>	5

HOW TO READ YOUR NEW BIBLE

Welcome, this is an extract from Module One of the ©Growing Deep and Strong Series.

And we are giving this to you to help you to learn how to navigate your way around your new purchase of the ©NKJV Spirit Filled Life Bible

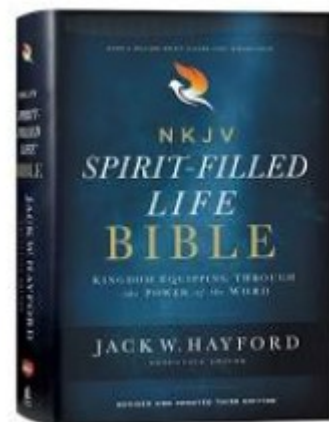
Just like car manufacturers produce an instruction manual for their cars, God has left us His manual. He wants to tell us personally how we can operate most efficiently.

A) WE CALL GOD’S MANUAL, THE BIBLE.

There are many translations. However, we recommend and use the

“©SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE” New King James Version.

This is a Study Bible. Gifted Bible scholars have been contracted to add helpful notes to help believers gain from their wealth of experience in studying the Bible.



Growing Deep and Strong®

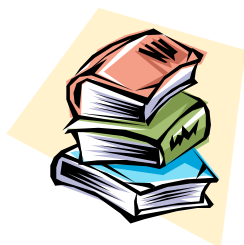
Let's have a look at...

B) THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

...and how the Bible is divided up.

The Bible has two main parts, the Old Testament and The New Testament.

The Old Testament consists of 39 books written by various human writers over 1500 years.



The New Testament consists of 27 books written by various human writers over some 50 years or so.

The Bible was not written from our 21st century perspective. It was written in different countries, in different periods of history and in different cultures, and in different languages as well. To understand what God wants to say to us, we have to understand the Bible in the context in which it was written. That is where the helpful notes are so useful as we study

the Bible for ourselves. Truth is the same truth in every generation, and God was speaking truth to the people of Bible times as well. We need to understand their culture and history, so that we can apply those same truths in our culture and historical context today. The more we understand of Bible times and culture, the more we will be able to hear what God wants to say to us today.

Ultimately God Himself is...

C) THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE



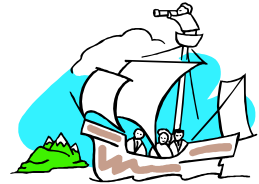
...as He inspired these 40 humans to write the 66 books, even to the words they chose to use. This is seen in the fact that there is an amazing unity in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, from beginning to end. There is harmony, progression of thought and an absence of contradiction in these 66 books. Humanly speaking, it would have been impossible for 40 writers, living in different countries, in different cultures and in different periods of history to have composed such an amazingly unified book. The Bible is **God's Word**, which is supported by the fact that almost 4000 times, words to the effect, "God said" --- is used in the Bible. God is interested in talking to us personally, and one way He does that is through the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.* NLT.

When you read these verses, you will notice that it says that **ALL** Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Bible does not just **contain** the Word of God; it **IS** the Word of God, from cover to cover.

Growing Deep and Strong®

Let's go on a journey on how to use the...



D) "SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE".

Open your Bible to "page one", about 20 pages in from the start. One page back you will find a list of the Old Testament and New Testament books.

E) BIBLE INDEX

Example:

Books of the Old and New Testaments and Their Abbreviations

	<u>ABBREV.</u>	<u>PAGE</u>		<u>ABBREV.</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Genesis	Gen.	1	Ecclesiastes	Eccl.	927
Exodus	Ex.	82	Song of Solomon	Song	946
Leviticus	Lev.	145	Isaiah	Is.	958
Numbers	Num.	188			

Now that you have discovered how to use the index, let's continue to explore the Bible.

Growing Deep and Strong®

First, let's look at the...

F) BOOK INTRODUCTION



Turn to the book or, as the Bible calls it, the **Gospel of John**.

That's a New Testament book, which starts on page 1441 in the old version and (N1505) in the new version. If your Bible was purchased after Sept. 2018, it most likely will be the new version.

At the start of each book of the Bible you will find the following information giving a background to the book, author, setting and so on.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

JOHN

AUTHOR

Early church tradition attributes the Fourth Gospel to John “the beloved disciple” (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20), who belonged to the “inner circle” of Jesus’ followers-----

DATE

The same tradition that locates John in Ephesus suggests that he wrote his Gospel in the latter part of the first century-----

PURPOSE

In a broad sense, John wrote to provide the Christians of the province of Asia (now in Asia Minor) with a fuller understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. More specifically-----

JOHN AND THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

While John most likely knew of the other three Gospel accounts, he chose not to follow their chronological sequence of events as much as a topical order. In this case -----

CONTENT

John divides the ministry of Jesus into two distinct parts: chapters 2–12 give insight into His public ministry-----

CHRIST REVEALED

The book presents Jesus as the only begotten Son of God who became flesh-----

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

Unique to John is the designation of the Holy Spirit as “Comforter” or “Helper”-----

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In seeking to fulfill his purpose as stated in 20:20, 31, John confronts his readers with claims -----

AUTHOR:

The Apostle John

DATE:

About A.D. 85

THEME:

Knowing God by believing

In Jesus Christ

KEY WORDS:

Believe, Bear

Witness, Life

Growing Deep and Strong®



Now let's look at some of the other features of the Spirit Filled Life Bible.

There are **six** other **features** that we would like to explain to you and the first one we want to look at is...



KINGDOM DYNAMICS

Turn to page 1447 (N 1511) and look at **John 3:1-5**. You will notice a **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** and how it gives a description to the meaning of those verses. We will be referring to them to help you gain an understanding of what God is saying to you in His Word.

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, ^aunless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

KINGDOM DYNAMICS 3:1-5 New Birth, THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM.

Upon repentance, a new order of life opens to the believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus used the figure of “new birth” to dramatically indicate three things: 1) Without New Birth, there is no life and no relationship with God (14:6). 2) In New Birth, new perspective comes as we “see the kingdom of God” (3:3), God’s Word becomes clear, and the Holy Spirit’s works and wonders are believed and experienced—faith is alive. 3) Through New Birth we are introduced—literally we “enter” (v. 5)—to a new realm, where God’s new kingdom order can be realized (2 Cor. 5:17). New Birth is more than simply being “saved.” It is a requalifying experience, opening up the possibilities of our whole being to the supernatural dimension of life and fitting us for a beginning in God’s kingdom order.

(Matt. 3:1, 2; 4:17/Matt. 13:1-52) J.W.H.

Growing Deep and Strong®

Second, let's look at...



TRUTH-IN-ACTION ⑥

Turn to John 3:3 page 1447 (N 1511).

See the in the old version or (N⑥) in the new version.

⑥ 3 Jesus answered and said to him,
 “Most assuredly, I say to you,
^aunless one is born ¹again, he cannot
 see the kingdom of God.”

If you look at the **FOOTNOTES** at the bottom of the page, you will find it says: -

3:3 See section (N⑥) of **TRUTH-IN-ACTION** at the end of John.



Turn to page 1484. (N 1548)

Down the bottom of the page, you will find a box with the number ⑥ in a section called “**Guidelines for Growth in the Spirit.**” This is a truth that John teaches. Across from that you will find 3:3 and this is the action that John wants to teach us.

TRUTH-IN-ACTION THROUGH JOHN Letting the Life of the Holy Spirit Bring Faith's Works Alive in You!		
TRUTH	ACTION	
JOHN TEACHES	TEXT	JOHN INVITES
<p>4 Guidelines for Growth in the Spirit</p> <p>⑥ John's Gospel introduces the Holy Spirit's role in spiritual growth. The New Birth and the baptism with the Holy Spirit endow the believer with the life and gifts of the Holy Spirit, including the ability to pray in Spirit power. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, Helper, Advocate, and Guide. He is our source of true spiritual understanding. He lifts up Jesus and builds up believers, enabling them to live the Christian life.</p>	<p>3:3</p> <p>14:25, 26</p> <p>16:8-11</p> <p>16:12-15</p>	<p>Understand that perceiving the kingdom of God and entering it are impossible without spiritual rebirth.</p> <p>Understand that the Holy Spirit enables God's people to understand and live by the truth.</p> <p>Ask the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to people's hearts. Understand that is one of His primary ministries.</p> <p>Understand that knowing the truth of God's Word is made possible by the Holy Spirit</p>

Now let's look at the third feature.

Growing Deep and Strong®



WORD WEALTH



Turn to page 1443 (N 1508) and look at **John 1:5**.

Notice the word ¹**comprehend** is in bold type and directly below the verse is a **WORD WEALTH** with a description of the meaning or interpretation of the word *comprehend*.

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And ^athe light shines in the ^{*}darkness, and the darkness did not ¹**comprehend** it.

WORD WEALTH **1:5 comprehend**, *katalambano* (kat-al-am-ban-oh); Strong's #2638: The word is capable of three interpretations: 1) To seize, lay hold of, overcome. As such, v.5 could read, "The darkness does not gain control of it." 2) To perceive, attain, lay hold of with the mind, to apprehend with moral effort. With this meaning the verse could be translated, "The darkness is unreceptive and does not understand it." 3) To quench, extinguish, snuff out the light by stifling it. "The darkness will never be able to eliminate it." Light and darkness are essentially antagonistic. The Christian's joy is in knowing that the light is not only greater than darkness but will also outlast the darkness.

WORD WEALTH will help you gain a better understanding of what the writer was attempting to say to us by the word that he chose to use. It gives you a really good definition and how that word applies to us.

Growing Deep and Strong®

Fourthly, we will look at...



BIBLE VERSE LINKS and CROSS REFERENCES

This is what your centre column looks like at **John 1:5**, page 1443. (N 1508).

	5 ^a [John 3:19] ¹ Or overcome *See WW at John 12:46	}	←	SEE BELOW FOR EXPLANATION
	6 ^a Matt. 3:1-17 See WW at John 20:21			
	1 In the beginning ^a was the *Word, and the ^b Word was ^c with God, and the Word was ^d God. 2 ^a He was in the beginning with God. 3 ^a All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 ^a In Him was *life, and ^b the life was the light of men. 5 And ^a the light shines in the *darkness, and the darkness did not ¹ comprehend it.			
^a the				*See WW at John 12:46
				WW = WORD WEALTH
				Alternative translation “overcome”

If you look at verse 5 again you will see a small letter “a” beside the word “the”. Look to the centre column and you will see a bold **5**. The 5 indicates the verse number. And beside the 5 you will find the letter ^a [John 3:19].

This is a **CROSS REFERENCE** and by turning to page 1448 (N 1512) and reading John 3:19 it gives us another verse making the same point as the original verse we were looking at.

Turn back to page 1443 (N 1508). Look again at verse **5** and let’s look briefly at...

ALTERNATIVE TRANSLATIONS

¹**comprehend** is not only in bold but it has a little number ¹ before it. Look at the centre column and you will find a little number ¹ and beside it, it says “or overcome.” This means that in the translation from Greek to English it could mean, “overcome” instead of “comprehend”. So this verse could read “And the light shines in the *darkness, and the darkness did not ¹**overcome** it”.

If you look at the word *darkness you will see an asterisk beside the word. Now look in the centre column and you will find a an asterisk and beside it “see WW at John 12:46.” To look up that verse we need to turn to page 1467 (N 1531) and you will find a **WORD WEALTH** description for darkness.

Growing Deep and Strong®

Now let's look at the sixth feature.

Turn back to page 1443 (N 1508) and look at the bottom of the page. You will find...



FOOTNOTES

...explaining what the Bible writer meant when he was writing these verses.

Look at verse 1. "*In the beginning.*" The footnote 1:1 below helps us to understand what the writer was referring to.

1:1 In the beginning: An allusion to Gen. 1:1, with the intention of linking Jesus the Word with the God of creation. The event of Jesus' incarnation therefore had cosmic significance. **The Word** is Jesus Christ, the eternal, ultimate expression of God. In the OT God spoke the world into existence; in the Gospel God spoke His final word through the living Word, His Son. The phrase "the Word was God" attributes deity to the Word without defining all of the Godhead as "the Word."

1:3 John declares that Jesus was the divine agent who was responsible for the entire creation.

1:4, 5 **Life** and **light** belong to John's fundamental vocabulary in describing the essence and mission of the incarnate Word.

1:6-11 John's Gospel records various testimonies concerning Christ, showing that faith in Him is based upon evidence. The **witness** of John the Baptist, as well as the other evidence



Congratulations! That was heavy going. You have done well! Learning to use your Bible is little daunting at first. Remember, how do we eat an elephant? It is one bite at a time.

It is like a child learning to walk. It is a process that is learned, yet once it is learnt it will become a way of life that will be as natural as walking.