



ENGAGE

An Invitation To Delighting In God's Word
 Part I — God Spoke

- Most urgent, relevant issue for Christians.
- This series is directed to believers—will touch on debated issues and it is beyond the scope of this study to run each issue to ground.
- I am frequently asked for suggestions on how to effectively study and learn God's Word.
- There are two extremes to avoid—those that reject any need for this kind of study and those that make it way too hard.
- Why is there so much disagreement about the Bible?
- Goal here is common sense principles in bite-size pieces.

SOME TOPICS WE'LL COVER

- Why is it important to study the Bible? (God speaks, to us, the truth, life-changing words)
- Duty versus delight so that we will routinely study God's Word (cannot emphasize this enough)
- Effectively studying God's Word (plain sense hermeneutic, words, whole to the part to the whole, connection points, sticking to the book at hand, outlining the book, not trafficking in proof texts and half-verses)
- Pitfalls to effective, routine Bible study (philosophical and theological biases, priorities)
- Be a doer of God's Word

- **KEY PRINCIPLE:** WE NEED TO SEEK TO KNOW GOD'S WORD BETTER THAN WE KNOW ANYTHING ELSE
- Jesus said we must live “by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)
- God invites us to engage the Bible as a routine life practice.

GOD SPOKE

- “In the beginning God...”
- The Bible is the greatest literary masterpiece ever written.
- The Word of God is living. (Hebrews 4:12)
- The Bible begins with God. But who created God?

GOD SPOKE

- The self-existent one God who was always there spoke.
- We should listen.
- Reality confirms to God's Words.
- The Bible presents a paradigm shift from human wisdom to God's wisdom.

...the fact [is] that the Christian understanding of truth is broader than that of mathematics and science. Like science, Christianity identifies truth as a correspondence to reality. Like mathematics, Christian truth requires consistency. But its most important meanings often go beyond scientific scrutiny. That is, in speaking of God's promises, the Bible is often speaking of future events. In speaking of God's nature and other spiritual realities, it is addressing matters that are not accessible to mathematical reasoning or scientific induction. Knowledge about such matters can only be gained if a reliable person tells us of them. So, while the relative and tentative approaches to truth that characterize science and mathematics are appropriate for those disciplines, faith is the appropriate way to approach the truth of God's promises and Jesus's revelation of God. The reliability of the speaker guarantees the truthfulness of the statements. — James Bradley & Russell Howell, *Mathematics Through the Eyes of Faith*

GOD SPOKE

- The self-existent one God spoke and the Bible contains His Words.
- Because God is outside of this universe, His wisdom and Word is distinct and not earthly.
- Earthly truths vs. heavenly truths
- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Timothy 3:16a)

GOD SPOKE

- God is not the divine watchmaker.
- The self-existent one God who spoke intersects in human history.
- Bible opens and closes with God intersection with human history.
- The desire of God is to intersect in your life.

GOD SPOKE

- It is imperative that we read the Bible.
- We cannot flourish without it.
- Sunday mornings is not enough.
- We need God's biased viewpoint.
- We need to accept the great invitation.