



**The Person & the Work of the**

# *Holy Spirit*

*15. The Role of the Holy Spirit  
in the Church - 12*

*Hearing*  
**GOD**



Call to Me **and I will answer you** and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognise, have knowledge of and understand).

**Jeremiah 33:3** (Amplified Bible)

Call to Me, **and I will answer** and show you great and **unsearchable** things you do not know.

**Jeremiah 33:3** (Berean Study Bible)

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom  
and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are  
His judgments and **unfathomable** His ways!

**Romans 11:33**

## ▶ Examining Bible versions

# Bible Version Comparison

## WORD-FOR-WORD

The aim is to translate the original Hebrew/Greek words into corresponding English words, preserving structure and phrasing and accuracy of translation.

## THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

The aim is to convey the thought or idea of sentences or paragraphs in modern English, sacrificing exact phrasing for an easy-to-read style.

# Bible Version Comparison

## WORD-FOR-WORD

These prioritise literal accuracy by following the original Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek as closely as possible. They are ideal for personal study & for academic work but **can sometimes be harder to read in natural English.**

## THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

These prioritise conveying what they see as the intent or the thought behind the original text & doing so in easy-to-read, modern English. They are good for daily reading & for beginners, **though they involve more interpretive choices by the translators.**

← **TRANSLATIONS**

**INTERPRETATIONS** →

וַאֲלֵ-אַבְרָהָם אֵל-יִצְחָק וְאֵל-יַעֲקֹב בְּאֵל שַׁדַּי<sup>3</sup>  
and-I-appeared to Abraham to Isaac and-to Jacob as-El-Shaddai

וְשִׁמִּי יְהוָה לֹא נֹדַעְתִּי לָהֶם: וְגַם הִקְמַתִּי אֶת-  
but-name-of-me Yahweh not I-was-known to-them and-also I-established את-

בְּרִיתִי אִתָּם לְתַתּוֹת לָהֶם אֶת-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֶת-אֶרֶץ  
covenant-of-me with-them to-give to-them את- land-of Canaan land-of

מִגְרֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר-גָּרוּ בָּהּ: וְגַם | אֲנִי  
sojournings-of-them which they-lived-as-sojourners in-her moreover-also I

שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת-נַאֲקַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם מֵעַבְדֵי אֶתֶם  
I-have-heard את- groan-of people-of Israel whom Egyptians making-serve אתם

וְאֶזְכָּר אֶת-בְּרִיתִי: לְכֵן אֶמַר לְבְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי  
and-I-have-remembered את- covenant-of-me for-thus say to-people-of Israel I

# Bible Version Comparison

**WORD-FOR-WORD**

**THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT**



NASB

ESV

KJV

HCSB

NET

TNIV

NLT

GNT

MESSA

NASB New American Standard Bible

AMP Amplified Bible

ESV English Standard Version

RSV Revised Standard Version

KJV King James Version

NKJV New King James Version

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Version

NRSV New Revised Standard Version

NET New English Translation

NIV New International Version

TNIV Today's New International Version

NCV New Century Version

NLT New Living Translation

NIRV New International Reader's Version

GNT Good News Translation/Bible

Living Living Bible - Paraphrase

- ④ Examining Bible versions
- ④ Positioning ourselves to hear the Lord speak to us

Your Word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

**Psalm 119:105**

... faith comes by hearing, and  
hearing by the Word of God.

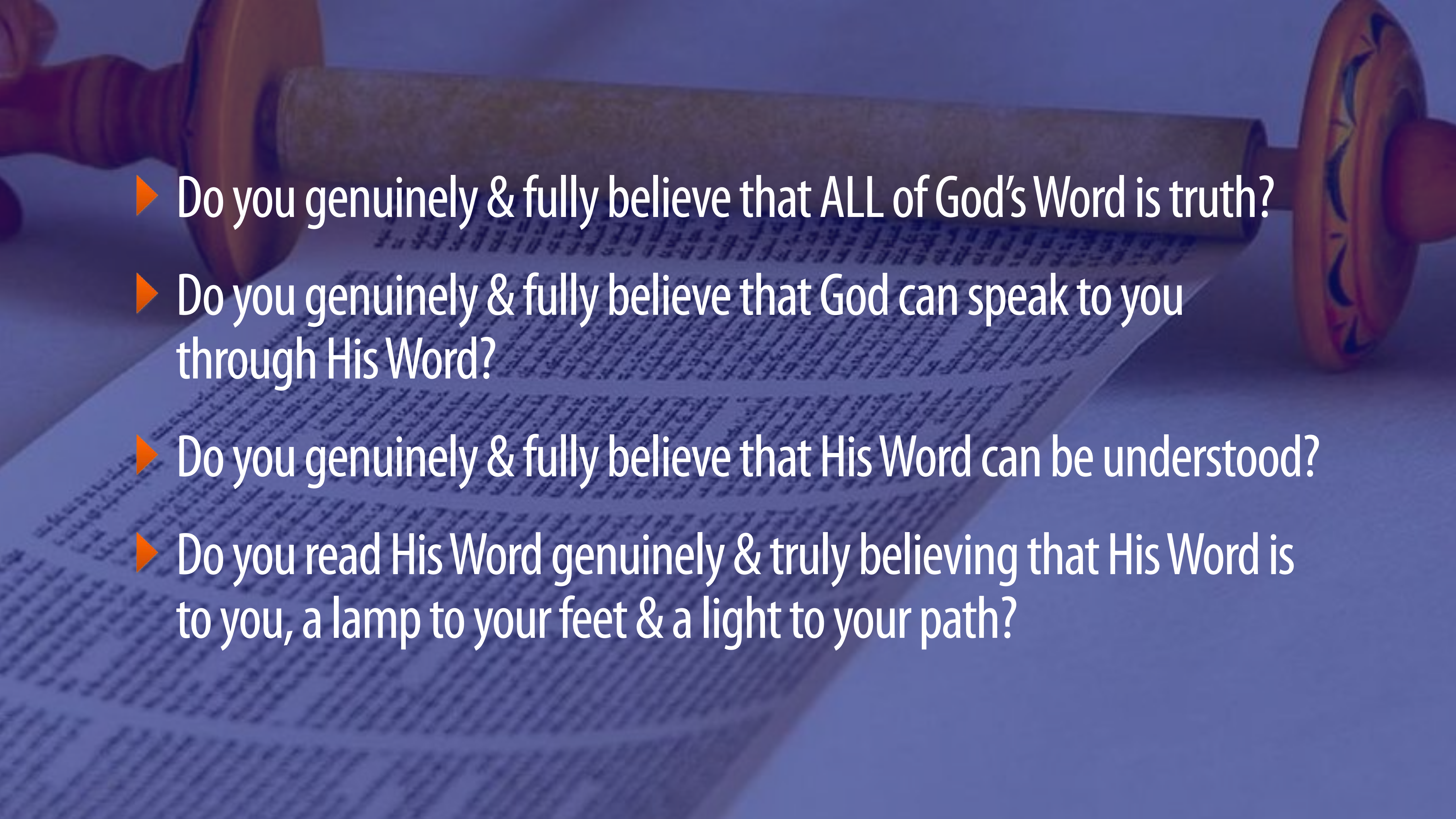
**Romans 10:17**

## **Through the Word of God**

This is the most clear and effective way of God's communication with His people. If you want to know how things work perfectly, you need to read the manual. The Bible is God's manual for His people. But as is the case with other manuals, we often ignore the Bible! How often do we try everything else, but His word?

- 16.** Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),
- 17.** So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** (Amplified Bible)

- 
- A scroll of parchment with Hebrew text, unrolled on wooden rollers. The scroll is the central focus, with the text written in a traditional Hebrew script. The rollers are made of wood and are positioned on either side of the scroll. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a table or a wall.
- ▶ Do you genuinely & fully believe that ALL of God's Word is truth?
  - ▶ Do you genuinely & fully believe that God can speak to you through His Word?
  - ▶ Do you genuinely & fully believe that His Word can be understood?
  - ▶ Do you read His Word genuinely & truly believing that His Word is to you, a lamp to your feet & a light to your path?

In serving as a pastor for over thirty years, I have seen some remarkable transformations and I've seen some big disappointments. I have two observations. First, where there has been lasting change, the common factor, in every case, is that the Word of God has had a significant entrance into the person's life. Second, where Godly change has failed to get started, or has slowly unraveled, the common factor, in every case, is that change has been attempted without significant engagement in the Scriptures.

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**Colin S. Smith** (Jonah: Navigating a God-Centered Life)

# BIBLE IN A YEAR

## 365-Day Reading Plan

THE INTERNATIONAL

### FREE BIBLE READING PLAN

### 1 Year Bible Reading Plan

RoseineCottageGirls.com

# The ONE YEAR BIBLE

The entire New King James Version

## 2026 Bible Reading Plan

### The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan

January		February	
New Testament		New Testament	
MATTHEW	ACTS	MATTHEW	ACTS
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	1. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:21-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-26	2. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:1
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-21	3. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:20-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:11
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:22-47	4. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:1
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	5. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:22-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-27	6. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:1

## Bible Reading Plan with Tracker

### How to Read the Bible

READ THROUGH YOUR ENTIRE BIBLE THIS YEAR

# 2026 BIBLE READING PLAN

GET STARTED TODAY

- ▶ people make time for what's important to them!
- ▶ people make time for the things they love & excuses for the things they don't!
- ▶ the best time to start was last year, failing that, today will do!
- ▶ the primary purpose of reading the Bible is not to know the Bible but to know God!

This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, **SO THAT** you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For **THEN** you shall make your way prosperous, and **THEN** you shall deal wisely and have good success.

**Joshua 1:8** (Amplified Bible)

- ▶ Unlike modern Western conceptions of meditation, which often imply quietness or emptying the mind, **hagah** is a "noisy" meditation. It implies repeating Scripture, meditating on God's Word, or whispering a Psalm to oneself to internalise it.
- ▶ **Hagah** is used to describe the sound a lion makes over its prey (Isaiah 31:4). Biblically, this is used as a metaphor for feasting on God's Word, studying it passionately, and obsessing over it until it becomes part of you.

I will remember my song in the night; I will meditate with my heart, and my spirit ponders.

**Psalm 77:6**

I will meditate on all Your work and muse on Your deeds.

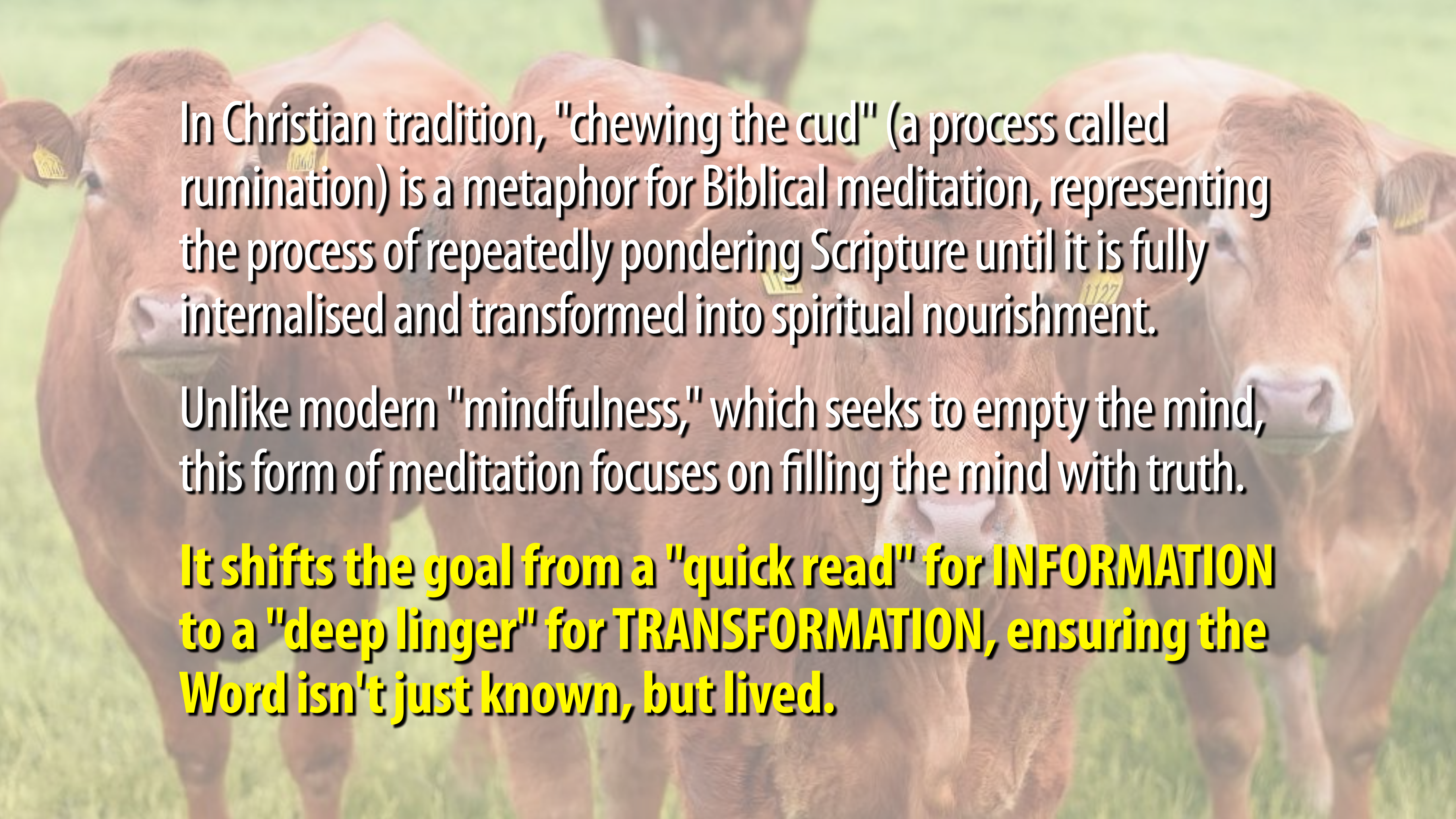
**Psalm 77:12**

My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Your Word.

**Psalm 119:148**

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your doings; I muse on the work of Your hands.

**Psalm 143:5**



In Christian tradition, "chewing the cud" (a process called rumination) is a metaphor for Biblical meditation, representing the process of repeatedly pondering Scripture until it is fully internalised and transformed into spiritual nourishment.

Unlike modern "mindfulness," which seeks to empty the mind, this form of meditation focuses on filling the mind with truth.

**It shifts the goal from a "quick read" for INFORMATION to a "deep linger" for TRANSFORMATION, ensuring the Word isn't just known, but lived.**

In serving as a pastor for over thirty years, I have seen some remarkable transformations and I've seen some big disappointments. I have two observations. First, where there has been lasting change, the common factor, in every case, is that the Word of God has had a significant entrance into the person's life. Second, where Godly change has failed to get started, or has slowly unraveled, the common factor, in every case, is that change has been attempted without significant engagement in the Scriptures.

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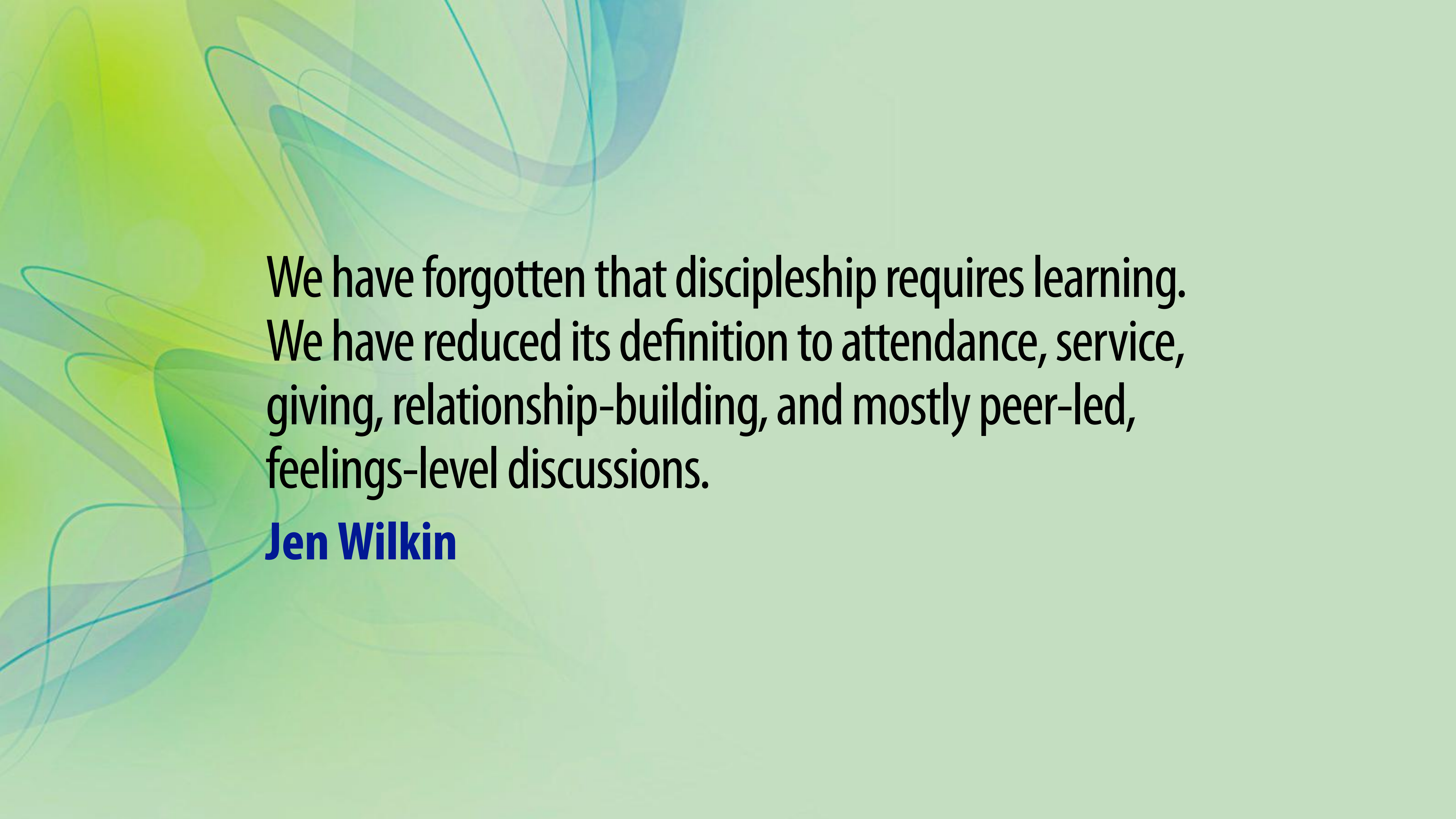
**Colin S. Smith** (Jonah: Navigating a God-Centered Life)

## **The epidemic of Bible illiteracy in our Churches**

### **A famine of knowing the Scriptures in our Churches**

Christians claim to believe the Bible is God's Word. We claim it's God's divinely inspired, inerrant message to us. Yet despite this, we aren't reading it. A recent LifeWay Research study found only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. Over 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost 1 in 5 churchgoers say they never read the Bible - essentially the same number who read it every day.

In 2023 the Bible Society of New Zealand published a Bible engagement survey entitled, *New Zealanders and the Bible*. A minority of New Zealanders surveyed – 41% – identified as Christians. (In the Census of 2023 only 32.3% identified as Christians). While 80% of professing Christians owned a Bible, only 39% claimed to interact with it often. Of the rest, 21% said that they lack self-discipline, 20% said they get distracted by other activities, while a further 20% said that engaging with the Bible is simply not a priority. Thus, it comes as no surprise that only 16% of professing Christians believed that the central message of the Bible is salvation from sin through the cross of Jesus.



We have forgotten that discipleship requires learning.  
We have reduced its definition to attendance, service,  
giving, relationship-building, and mostly peer-led,  
feelings-level discussions.

**Jen Wilkin**

My sheep hear My voice, and **I know them**,  
and they follow Me.

**John 10:27**

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you;  
**DEPART FROM ME**, you who practice lawlessness.'

**Matthew 7:23**

## **Our lack of BIBLICAL literacy compounds into THEOLOGICAL illiteracy**

- ▶ In response to the statement “God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam,” 47% of evangelicals agreed.
- ▶ In response to the statement “Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God,” 64% of evangelicals agreed.
- ▶ In response to the statement “Jesus was a great teacher, but He was not God,” 28% of evangelicals agreed.

**State of Theology Report 2025,** Ligonier Ministries & Lifeway Research

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.

**1 Timothy 4:1**

- 31.** So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My Word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples.
- 32.** And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

**John 8:31-32** (Amplified Bible)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Hebrews 4:12**

16. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever;
17. that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because **He abides with you and will be in you.**

**John 14:16-17**

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**John 16:13**

## Key roles of the Bible in a believer's life include:

▶ **Revelation of God:** It reveals God's character, His plan for salvation through Jesus Christ, & His eternal purposes.

▶ **A Guide for Living:** Scripture serves as a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path," helping believers navigate challenges & make decisions based on divine truth rather than the dictates & expectations of this fallen world.

▶ **Source of Transformation:** It is "living & active," capable of dividing soul from spirit & transforming believers by renewing their minds to be more like Christ.

## Key roles of the Bible in a believer's life include:

▶ **Spiritual Sustenance:** It acts as spiritual food, nourishing the soul & strengthening faith through regular reading & reflection.

▶ **Authoritative Standard:** It is the final authority for what is true, providing correction, rebuke, & training for righteousness.

- ▶ Do I genuinely & fully believe that ALL of God's Word is truth?
- ▶ Do I genuinely & fully believe that God can speak to ME through His Word?
- ▶ Do I genuinely & fully believe that His Word can be understood?
- ▶ Do I have a Bible Reading Plan?
- ▶ Am I actively following a Bible Reading Plan?
- ▶ Is my reading of God's Word a "quick read" for information or a "deep linger" for transformation, so that God's Word isn't just known, but lived?