

# Moving our families towards Bible Confidence

Psalms 119:105

Knowing the Bible better will make you better in many ways. Whole hearted Bible engagement will improve your self-esteem, family dynamics, and social interactions. You will become far more likely to engage your gifts in service to others for God's glory.

Since the world cannot be disciplined from the pulpit, an army of Lay Leaders must take responsibility for bringing biblical truths to their networks at work, at home, and in the community.

We are in a culture that is reeling from the demise of biblical literacy. Growing our Bible confidence is cultivating a firm framework for being an ambassador of Jesus Christ to a world hungering for truth that transforms.

Gaining Bible confidence puts us at the epicentre of God's solution in our own circle of influence. God has designed each of us uniquely for such a time as this.

There are four key passages in the Bible that runs like a trajectory through the length of the Bible. Understanding these four passages will help us in our journey from the place of Bible curiosity to Bible confidence.

## [1] Keeping the Faith: Matthew 26:27-28

God called Abraham from ancient Iraq and entered into covenant with him (Genesis 15:6, 17-18). God promised to make Abraham's descendants a great nation, give them a real estate (land of Israel) in perpetuity; and that all humanity will be blessed through him. Abraham believed God would be true to his word, and his faith in God was accounted to him for

righteousness. Against all natural odds, God fulfilled his promises to Abraham.

The concept of covenant undergirds virtually every relationship God ever had with any human. In fact, our faith in Jesus, our connection to the Holy Spirit, our belonging in the body of Christ are all underpinned by covenant.

The night before Jesus died, "He took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is **my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Matthew 26:27-28 BSB).

This covenant in Christ implies both responsibility and community with enduring heritage. Every believer in Jesus Christ is a member of God's global enterprise—a kingdom—that spans every time zone and all eras.

The condition of every covenant is faith. According to the Bible, faith is not a leap in the dark but a walk in the light. Your character is as deep as the covenant you keep.

## [2] The Key to Happiness: Psalms 1:1-3

Every father wants his children to be happy. "As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11 GNB)

The ignorant mind says "God doesn't want you to be happy; he wants you to be holy!" This assumption that happiness and holiness are opposites is fatally flawed. Holiness and happiness can go hand in hand. Check out a few Bible verses: "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm

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37:4). “Rejoice in the Lord” (Philippians 3:1). “Rejoice always” (1 Thessalonians 5:16). “We consider those blessed [happy] who remained steadfast” (James 5:11). The entire book of Ecclesiastes is a treatise on happiness, and Proverbs is a kind of happiness handbook. In fact, obedience to God fosters happiness! Not to mention the teachings of Jesus on the Mount – “The Beatitude.” (Matthew 5 – 7)

Psalm 1 is the trump passage in the Bible on happiness. It opens with the key word BLESSED—the Bible’s term for “happy”: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers” (verse 1). Psalm 1 is the starting line for the pursuit of the blessed (happy) life.

Psalms 1 shows that our choices are more important than our circumstances. It gives us a clear process for building the blessed life:

- (1) Foster relationships with people who honour the Lord.
- (2) Create space in your brain for truths of God’s Word.
- (3) Serve others in significant ways.

The secret to happiness is in micro-moments that turn into habits that, if continued over a lifetime will become a biography with a very happy ending.

While genetics accounts for 50 percent of the variability in happiness, circumstances account for only 10 percent— leaving a massive 40 percent of our happiness to the choices we make.

Give good consideration to scripture meditation, a note of gratitude to a friend and to some random acts of kindness. Remember that if you're helping someone

and expecting something in return, you're doing business, not kindness.

### [3] True Worship: John 4:21-24

John 4:21–24. What does real worship look like? Jesus repeated it so we wouldn’t miss it. Real worship is in spirit and truth.

Churches often debate the proper form of worship. What style of music? Does the building matter? What elements should worship include? Don't be distracted by these futile considerations.

For Jesus, the real question is not about the style of worship but about the heart of the worshipper. Valid worship arises from the Spirit and Truth. In the gospel of John, Spirit and Truth are more persons than virtues. Jesus is identified as the embodiment of Truth (1:14, 17; 5:33; 7:18; 8:32, 40, 45–46; 14:6; 18:37), and the Holy Spirit is described as the “Spirit of truth” (14:17; 15:26; 16:13). Christian worship honours the Father, as experienced through Jesus, by the indwelling of the Spirit.

What differentiates Christian worship from other religious activities is the Spirit. The Spirit leads us to the Truth embodied in Jesus, who escorts us directly to the Father. That’s what true worship looks like.

### [4] Handing control back to God and regaining the Peace of God: Philippians 4:6-8

Worry is both a psychological and theological problem with its origin in Genesis 3, taking us back to the primordial sin in the garden.

Adam and Eve determined to assume the status and responsibilities of God and be rulers of their own universe rather than

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live under the authority of God. The stress of trying to control time, destiny and morality has ever since proven unbearable for humans.

We remain under the spell of worry for as long as we crave self-sufficiency that in itself disables our trust in God. Focusing on ourselves blinds us to what God has done and what He is able to do.

Faith is the only cure for worry. Boldly trusting God's track record and taking Him at His word is the way to truly enjoy the peace of God.

We must confront and supplant every negativity with the word of God. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says we must "take every thought captive to obey Christ." Every lie we tear down must be replaced with God's truth!

Make a habit of asking yourself the question: What is the Holy Spirit saying right now about the situation that I'm in? Encourage each member of your household and close friends to regularly share with each other Bible verses and godly music that blesses them and encourages them in their situations.

Finally, Paul writes in Philippians 4:8 what I call the curriculum for healthy thinking. The thoughts we allow to take root in our brains will eventually win the battle for our minds. It is feeding our minds with God's truths and memories of His cares for us that will drive worry away from us.

Since God has called every believer to be part of His global enterprise, we must be very proactive in engaging other believers in the journey of faith. Start with your family and close associates.

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