



“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”- Martin Luther

The Bible Part Four: How it works

My final reason for believing in the Bible is by how it works. Imagine *The Shining* by Stephen King as a Bible? What if *Dating for Dummies* became the Holy word? Most of us know it does not work that way. One book is written to tell us history like Britannica or even Wikipedia. Another is geared towards self-help or instruction. My car manual is really big. Yet, it's not the Bible. A car Bible? There are other so-called Holy scriptures in other religions. Yet, the Old Testament Bible rules them all. It's been around longer than any other. I believe that this book works in a way that no other book does. I agree that the word of God is alive.

How can I say that? The Bible is alive? That settled it for me. I was a Christian for one month. I had been to church 4 times. Yet, when a friend of mine gave me my first Bible I was so happy. Then you sit down and try and read it. This is a really big book. I have heard the rumors that it's boring and judgmental. The Bible is all about rules and commands. Then over a six-month period I read the whole thing. It's probably something I could not repeat. I read it so much that some of the pages fell out. It's amazing to me that this old boring book raptured me. I was just stunned at the wisdom and stories found in its pages. It was not at all like I thought.

Yet, why do I say it's alive? One day you're feeling down and you read a chapter. Somehow the words jump off the page and steal your heart. My first memorized verse is 1 Corinthians 15:33 *“Do not misled, Bad company corrupts good character.”* As I was going

through divorce those words hit me. In my marriage I was depressed. Some councilors said oppressed. It was verses like these that changed my thinking. They soothed my heart. I felt the Bible come alive for me. It was not just something written to different people thousands of years ago. No, it was speaking to me in my present calamity. It clarified my current reality.

I saw myself in the life of Moses and David. I have made similar mistakes and the same bad choices. How did God deal with them and how is he dealing with me? I know some people say it's just historical. Yes, some parts are Jewish history. Yet, within this history is stories. These stories tell of how God and people react to each other. It helped me understand God. Yes, there are theology parts too. These men dissected Gods nature and gave it to us in human terms. There is wisdom in the Psalms and Proverbs. The Prophets help connect the Old and New Testaments together. This book is constantly pushing us to understand.

This verse changed me:

John 9:25 "He replied, "*Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!*"

Imagine yourself somewhere six months later. Did any of us see Covid coming? Did Our grandfathers see two world wars? I did not see me leafing through Christian books at the local Christian book store 6 months into my divorce. Not me! Yet, one night I changed. As I read the Bible I changed. This verse above affected me. This is a fact. I did not want to know the Bible. Now I can't get enough of it. I have witnessed what it has done to others. I love the talking donkey story in Numbers 22. The Old Testament is my favorite. Romans of the New Testament is crazy good writing. I feel like I've known the Bible my whole life, but I know that's not true. In a way it's become my best friend. The Bible is alive to me.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”*

That is, it in a nut shell. I didn't want to get it. I know so many who downright reject it. Then I have witnessed the changed lives. Troubled souls becoming untroubled. In a way, the dead rise. I have met the walking dead. People with no soul or purpose. They hate life. In comes the Bible and they change. Their spirit grows. A faith that comes alive. How does it work? All I know is that Jesus said he would send another to live in our hearts. This Holy Spirit would search the depths of God for understanding and answers. It's why we pray, read, and spend time with other Christians. If the Spirit is within these things then combining them together with the Bible gives us even more of the Spirit of God.

I feel alive in church. I feel alive singing Christian worship songs. I love reading my Bible. I equally love praying because I know that (in my solitude) I'm not alone. I want to leave you with two verses that have helped me understand why the Bible is different. I get it now. If you don't get these verses keep reading your Bible. In time you will see the wisdom come alive as I did. This is the real Bible

James 2:18-19 *“But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”*

Ephesians 4:4-6 *“here is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*