



OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

Devotion

Have you ever found yourself wandering through the aisles of a large bookstore? There are so many books from which to choose. Every title begs for your attention. It can be quite overwhelming, especially if you do not really know what you are looking for. It is almost like being a child in a candy store. Everything looks so good! Nevertheless, not everything you read in the world today is good for you. Fortunately, there is one resource we have we can count on. It is our greatest resource. It is God's own Word.

Just what does God's Word have to offer? Plenty! Consider these bookstore categories:

- **Self-help Books** – These books promise to help you become a better person. A “new and improved you” can be achieved if you just discipline yourself and try hard enough.

God's Book says the Lord provides complete renewal through Christ's redeeming work on the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!”*

- **Do It Yourself Books** – These books claim you can be self-sufficient. No job is too big for you to handle. Grab your tools and read the step-by-step instructions to solve all your problems.

God's Book says we cannot rely on ourselves. We need help! And God willingly provided His Son to be our Savior. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:8, 9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

- **Business & Finance Books** – teach us how to dress for success, make shrewd investments, and climb the corporate ladder in our attempt to be number one.

God's Book turns the financial world upside down by stating that everything we have is a gift from God. We cannot store up treasures that will last. Matthew 6:19, 20 instructs us *“Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy...But store up for yourself treasures in heaven.”*

- **Romance Novels** – These books often tempt us to follow the desires of our sinful hearts. Instead of filling out hearts with love, these novels can make us dissatisfied with our own lives.

God's Book is a true book of the heart where we can read over and over about God's love for us. King David's life sometimes unfolded like a romance novel, yet he was a man after God's own heart. David wrote in Psalm 51:10 *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”*

- **Religion Books** – This can be a rather scary section of the bookstore. Religions of the world include everything from Eastern mysticism to Pantheism to Hedonism. Each of them will use words and phrases that may sound Biblical, but beware of false prophets in disguise.

God's Book proclaims one way to heaven and one way only. John 14:6 tells us *"I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

- **Reference & Resource Books** provide answers to commonly asked questions. They are filled with statistics, maps, grammar, and definitions. How we use these resources is up to us.

God's Book does more than just provide information. It contains God's instructions, as well as His promises to us. One example is from Psalm 32:8, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel and watch over you."* Just how reliable is this great resource? We can find that answer in 2 Timothy 3:16. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Everyone seems to be searching for something. But not all will find the truth. Some of the early followers of Jesus could not understand his teachings. After Jesus referred to Himself as the "Bread of Life," some turned away from Him. *"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."* John 6:67-69

Closing Prayer: We join with the psalmist in this fervent prayer to our God: *"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."* Psalm 25:4, 5 We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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