

**FIRST
PRINCIPLES
AND
OTHER BIBLE BASICS**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from:

The New King James Version (NKJV). Nashville, TN:
Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982.

Other translations referenced in these lessons are:

King James Version (KJV). Public domain.

American Standard Version (ASV) of 1901. Public domain.

New American Standard Bible (NAS). La Habra, CA:
The Lockman foundation, 1995.

English Standard Version (ESV). Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, 2007.

Dedication

To Karen, my beloved wife and best friend.

Thank you for sharing your life with me.

I love you.

“...you need someone to teach you...
the first principles of the oracles of God...”
Hebrews 5:12

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PREFACE

The following lessons cover the first principles of the oracles of God (see Hebrews 5:12; 6:1-2) and other Bible basics. They were developed from 2010 to 2015 and presented as standalone lessons to an adult Bible class at the Chesapeake church of Christ in Chesapeake, Virginia. I have been serving the Lord at this congregation as an elder since 2009.

The lessons are relatively short, since each lesson was originally designed to fit on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, yet contain several important Scriptures. They are primarily intended as study material for new Christians, such as in a New Converts class or independent study, though a more seasoned Christian may find them useful as a reminder of the present truth he or she knows and is established in. There is also merit in using these lessons as an evangelistic tool to reach the lost.

The lessons are written in a question and answer format. Most of the questions are followed by one or more Bible references in round brackets. The answers are typically taken straight from the New King James Version (NKJV) Bible. Readers are strongly encouraged to verify the answers using the given references. Other translations mentioned in these lessons are the King James Version (KJV), American Standard Version (ASV) of 1901, New American Standard Bible (NAS) of 1995, and English Standard Version (ESV) of 2007.

First Principles

The main goal of these lessons is to lay a firm foundation on which new Christians can build and go on to maturity (perfection). Babes in Christ need the pure milk of the word to grow. Such growth is necessary before moving on to solid food since strong meat is for those who are of full age. My prayer is that all who use these lessons will become grounded and steadfast in the faith (see Colossians 1:23) and will have their senses exercised (trained) to discern both good and evil (see Hebrews 5:14) as they go on to perfection in Christ.

To God be the glory!

Kevin Snoop

LESSON 1

THE WORD

1. How were the heavens made? (Psalm 33:6)... by the word of the Lord.
2. How were the worlds framed (prepared)? (Hebrews 11:3)...by the word of God.
3. What is the relationship between the word of God (Acts 13:5) and:
 - a. The faith? (Acts 13:5-8)...they are equivalent.
 - b. The straight (right) ways of the Lord? (Acts 13:7-10)...they are equivalent.
 - c. The teaching (doctrine) of the Lord? (Acts 13:7, 12)...they are equivalent.
 - d. The word of the Lord? (Acts 13:46-48)... they are equivalent.
4. What are some attributes of the word of God (Scriptures)?
 - a. Mark 14:48-49...it must be fulfilled.
 - b. John 10:35...it cannot be broken.
 - c. John 17:17...it is truth.
 - d. First Peter 1:25...it endures forever.
 - e. Hebrews 4:12...it is living and powerful, sharp and piercing.
 - f. Hebrews 4:12...it discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 - g. Luke 8:11...it is the seed.
 - h. Ephesians 6:17...it is the sword of the Spirit.
 - i. Second Corinthians 5:19...it is reconciliation for the world.

First Principles

- j. Psalm 119:105...it is a lamp and light.
 - k. Jeremiah 23:29...it is like a fire and hammer.
 - l. Second Timothy 3:16...it is inspired of God (God-breathed) and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
5. What can the word of God do for us?
- a. John 8:31-32...make us free, if we abide (continue) in it.
 - b. John 17:17...sanctify us.
 - c. Romans 15:4...give us patience, comfort, and hope.
 - d. First Thessalonians 2:13...effectively work in us (who believe).
 - e. Second Timothy 3:14-15...make us wise for salvation.
 - f. James 1:18, 21...bring us forth and save us.
 - g. Psalm 119:28 (see Acts 15:32)...strengthen (exhort and confirm) us.
 - h. Psalm 119:50...give us life.
 - i. Psalm 119:130...give us light and understanding.
 - j. Second Timothy 3:16-17...make us complete (perfect), thoroughly equipped for every good work (and therefore, nothing else is needed).
6. How do we purify our souls? (1 Peter 1:22)...in (by) obeying the truth (i.e., God's word).
7. What should all hearers of the word be? (James 1:22)...doers of the word.
8. How will we be judged? (John 12:48)...by the word.

9. What is every preacher charged to do? (2 Timothy 4:2)...preach the word!
10. What is the power of God unto salvation? (Romans 1:16)...the gospel of Christ.
11. What general principle is taught about God's word in the beginning, middle, and end of the Bible? (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19)...Don't add to or take away from it.
12. What will happen to those who add to the words that are written? (Revelation 22:18)... God will add to them the plaques written in the book.
13. What will happen to those who take away from the words that are written? (Revelation 22:19) ...God will take away their part from the book of life.
14. How can we avoid divisions among us and be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment? (1 Corinthians 1:10)... we must "all speak the same thing".
15. How can we "all speak the same thing"? (1 Peter 4:11)...by speaking only the oracles of God (i.e., God's word; compare 2 Samuel 16:23 in NKJV/KJV with ESV/NAS to see that "oracle" means "word").
16. Do we know anything about heaven, hell, the church, or salvation without the Bible?...No.