**3.2 Ways to receive God’s Word**

There are several ways to receive and understand Gods word. It is sometimes specific to the person and sometimes to the congregation.

* Symbols of the God’s word in scripture

**Light:** God’s word is light to our path; Light to open our wisdom;

Psalms 119:105

105**Your word is a lamp to my feet**

And a light to my path.

Psalms 19:8

The precepts of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Proverbs 6:23

23For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching [of the law] is light,

And reproofs (rebukes) for discipline are the way of life

It reveals the truth about Jesus which sets us free

John 8:31-32

**The Truth Will Make You Free**

31So Jesus was saying to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples. 32And you will know the truth [regarding salvation], and the truth will set you free [from the penalty of sin].”

It also brings guidance and direction into our lives

Jesus Is the Light of the World

12Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. He said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

**Water:** Like water cleanses us, God’s word cleanses our souls, if we allow it to challenge us. We will change as Holy people that God wants us to be.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (AMP)

25Husbands, love your wives [seek the highest good for her and surround her with a caring, unselfish love], just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26so that **He might sanctify the church, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God]**, 27so that [in turn] He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy [set apart for God] and blameless.

Jesus spoke to Samaritan woman that the water he can give are living water and she will not get thirsty anymore. John 4:13-14

13Jesus answered her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. 14But whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water that I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst for God] welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life.”

**Seed:** Gods word is a seed that brings fruit in our lives. Fruit if spirit as mentioned in Galatians 5:22

The parable of sower teaches us many lessons. Here the seed represents God’s word (Luke 8:11) Parable: Luke 8:4-15

11 “Now [the meaning of] the parable is this: The seed is the word of God [concerning eternal salvation].

It brings fruitfulness who hear and receive it Luke 8:15

15But as for that seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and noble heart, and hold on to it tightly, and bear fruit with patience.

**Fire & Hammer:** It is very strong to burn our hearts to make them pure/holy. Its like hammer that breaks most stubborn hearts and bring water from it.

Jeremiah 23:29

9“Is not My word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]?” says the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks the [most stubborn] rock [in pieces]?

**Honey:** God’s word is sweet like honey, never leaves us broken but heals us in toughest times. It changes all bitterness of our hearts into sweet.

Psamls: 19:7-11

7¶The law of the Lord is perfect (flawless), restoring and refreshing the soul;

The statutes of the Lord are reliable and trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8The precepts of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true, they are righteous altogether.

10They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

11Moreover, by them Your servant is warned [reminded, illuminated, and instructed];

In keeping them there is great reward.

It brings sweetness of God’s joy within our lives

Psamls 119:103

103How sweet are **Your words to my taste,**

**Sweeter than honey** to my mouth! [Ps 19:10; Prov 8:11]

**About Bible**

The Bible is a compilation of 66 books and letters written by more than 40 authors during a period of approximately 1,500 years. The original text of the Bible was communicated in just three languages: Hebrew, koine or common Greek, and Aramaic. The Old Testament was written for the most part in Hebrew, with a small percentage in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.

**'Bible' Definition**

The English word "Bible" comes from bíblia in Latin and bíblos in Greek. The term means book, or books, and may have originated from the ancient Egyptian port of Byblos (in modern-day Lebanon), where papyrus used for making books and scrolls was exported to Greece. Other terms for the Bible are the Holy Scriptures, Holy Writ, Scripture, or the Scriptures, which means "sacred writings." For Christians, the simplest definition of the Bible is "the Word of God to humankind."

**The Canon and Apocrypha**

The word canon means "a rule" or "standard for measurement." The Canon of Scripture refers to the list of books that officially measured up to the standard, and, therefore, were worthy of inclusion. Only the canonical books are considered the "divinely inspired" authoritative Word of God, and, thus, rightfully belong in the Bible.

Both Jews and early church fathers agreed on 39 divinely inspired books as comprising the Old Testament Canon of Scripture. Augustine (400 A.D.), however, included the books of the Apocrypha. A large portion of the Apocrypha was officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church as part of the biblical Canon at the Council of Trent in A.D. 1546. Today, Coptic, Greek, and Russian Orthodox churches also accept these books. The word Apocrypha means "hidden." The books of the Apocrypha are not considered authoritative in Judaism and Protestant Christian churches.

For a long period in the history of the Bible, common men and women were forbidden access to the Scriptures and their life-transforming truths. The first full copy of the Bible was completed in the Greek language around A.D. 312. It was called the Codex Vaticanus, as it was kept in the Vatican library. By 405 A.D., Jerome had translated both Old and New Testaments into Latin, which the Catholic church made the official language of the Bible in A.D. 600. It wasn't until the 16th century that the entire Bible was translated into English.

Today the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with billions of copies distributed throughout the world in more than 2,400 languages.

If the 66 books are considered as precious stones, the thread connecting all those stones to make it chain is JESUS

For better understanding, bible can be divided into 5 parts

* Old Testament- Prophecy about Jesus and salvation
* Gospels- About the arrival of Jesus
* Acts- Witness to world about HIS arrival
* Epistles- How to live as per scriptures awaiting Jesus second coming

Revelation- Revealing the truth about Christian hope in Jesus

* **Ways to receive God’s word**

**Through God’s creation:** God’s word is evident from his creation. God always wanted to communicate to his people through creation.

Psams 19:1-6

**The Works and the Word of God.**

1The heavens are telling of the glory of God;

And the expanse [of heaven] is declaring the work of His hands. [Rom 1:20, 21]

2Day after day pours forth speech,

And night after night reveals knowledge.

3There is no speech, nor are there [spoken] words [from the stars];

Their voice is not heard.

4Yet their voice [in quiet evidence] has gone out through all the earth,

Their words to the end of the world.

In them and in the heavens He has made a tent for the sun, [Rom 10:18]

5Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;

It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

6The sun’s rising is from one end of the heavens,

And its circuit to the other end of them;

And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

No one get excuse before God during judgement that God didn’t revealed himself to them.

Romans 1:18-21

18For [God does not overlook sin and] the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who in their wickedness suppress and stifle the truth, 19because that which is known about God is evident within them [in their inner consciousness], for God made it evident to them. 20For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through His workmanship [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are without excuse and without defense. [Ps 19:1-4; Eph 2:10] 21For even though they knew God [as the Creator], they did not honor Him as God or give thanks [for His wondrous creation]. On the contrary, they became worthless in their thinking [godless, with pointless reasonings, and silly speculations], and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Through meditation on scriptures**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God’s will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; 17so that the man of God may be complete *and* proficient, outfitted *and* thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 15:4

4For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

**Through Prophecy:** God often speaks through his prophets

We have 3 major prophet books and 12 minor prophet books in bible apart from other older prophets in book of Samuel, Joshua, Kings, Chronicles, etc.

2 Peter 1: 19-21

19So we have the prophetic word made more certain. You do well to pay [close] attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and light breaks through the gloom and the morning star arises in your hearts. [Num 24:17] 20But understand this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of or comes from one’s own [personal or special] interpretation, 21for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Matthew 10:41

41He who receives and welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous (honorable) man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward.

**Through Preaching**

1 Corinthians 1:21

For since the world through all its [earthly] wisdom failed to recognize God, God in His wisdom was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached [regarding salvation] to save those who believe [in Christ and welcome Him as Savior].

Romans 10:14-15

14But how will people call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher (messenger)? 15And how will they preach unless they are commissioned and sent [for that purpose]? Just as it is written and forever remains written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!” [Is 52:7]

Isaiah 52: 7

7¶How beautiful and delightful on the mountains

Are the feet of him who brings good news,

Who announces peace,

Who brings good news of good [things],

Who announces salvation,

Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

**Through Jesus Himself:** By receiving Jesus, we receive Word of God

John 14:6

6Jesus said to him, “I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Hebrews 1:1-2

1God, having spoken to the fathers long ago in [the voices and writings of] the prophets in many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the truth], and in many ways, 2has in these last days spoken [with finality] to us in [the person of One who is by His character and nature] His Son [namely Jesus], whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe [that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum].

**Through Holy Spirit**
The Holy Spirit is the One who makes the written Word of God “speak” to our hearts and transform our minds. He makes the Scriptures come alive to us and helps us apply them to our lives. The Holy Spirit uses the truth of the Scriptures to combat the lies of our selfish inclination, the world, and the devil. He helps us discern whether our thoughts and actions align with the will and Word of God.

As we spend time in the Word, the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of truth guides us and leads us to Jesus who is the Truth (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit uplifts, reveals, and makes Jesus known to us, and helps us to fix our minds on Jesus.

John 14:6

6Jesus said to him, “I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 16:12-13a

12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [to hear] them now. 13But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth].

John 14:25-26

25 “I have told you these things while I am still with you. 26But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

Spirit came to Philip and told him to meet the Eunuch from Ethiopia Acts 8: 25-40

Vs 29 Then the [Holy] Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” 30Philip ran up and heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

Spirit came to Paul and guided him his route

Acts 16:6-8

6Now they passed through the territory of Phrygia and Galatia, after being forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in [the west coast province of] Asia [Minor]; 7and after they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8so passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

Today also we are having same Holy Spirit God with us. Just we need to learn to listen to him.

**Through Angels:** Abraham, Moses, Manoha, Daniel, John, Peter, Paul, Philip, List is on……

**Through his voice (slow yet sound):** Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Samuel, Paul, Peter, List is on……

* **Merits of learning God’s Word**
* To understand God’s will

Abraham learnt Gods will in his life through word. God said to leave the paternal place and he left.

Abraham believed God and it was considered righteousness in God’s sight.

Several people received Gods will through his word in scriptures.

* To understand God’s love

Several scriptures show Gods love for us John 3:16 (Gospel in nut shell)

* To Focus on eternal things

John 5:39

* To get Clarity on things

Ezra read Gods word in front of all to bring clarity

Sometimes, It gives more clarity than personal experiences.

* To Discern other words of world

Scriptures are source of wisdom and knowledge

* To build Christ like character
Bible reveals/ unfolds the character of God and what he exactly expects from us to do. This will lead us to become like Christ.

**What preparation we need to receive it in our lives**

Obedience, Sincerity, Faith, Determination

Prepare ourselves in Spirit, in mind and in body

By studying it everyday, confessing it, applying it to our lives and by sharing it.