



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - 9

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The Seven-Fold Purpose of the Bible

The Bible is not God, not an angel, not even a person; yet apart from a living being, it is the greatest gift that anyone on earth has ever or will ever receive. It is more helpful than any computer, more instructive than any counselor, and more directive than all the instruction manuals on earth put together. For all of history, and even today, it is the book most read, most quoted, and most studied. It is the best product the world has ever known, the finest tool a person could possess, and the best instrument for guidance and direction for this life. It is so profound that it can cut you and heal you, teach you and change you, call you and lead you. It can take you from the deepest depths of darkness and depression and bring you to the heights of heaven. When in doubt, read the Bible. When you lack direction, read the Bible. When you lack faith, read the Bible. The Bible is seven monumental gifts wrapped up in one book. Receive them and use them; they are God's gift to you.

When I was a young boy I was given a Gideon Bible at the Public School. After I was saved at age 14, I took that Bible with me to High School. Later, it went into the glove box of my first car and I carried it every day while I was at my first full-time job. I read a verse at break time, lunch time, bus-ride time, and just about anytime when the opportunity allowed. It fed me, inspired me, and taught me how to live. For me it was the magnificent, living Word of God.

Still today, the Bible is my constant companion and my faithful friend. Sometimes I read large portions of it at one time, but I also pray, asking God to speak to me, then I open my Bible, put my finger down and read just one verse. I usually come upon a clear word from God that is just what I need at that moment. It happens so often; it even happened last night. The Lord woke me at 3:00 AM. After some prayer, I opened my Bible and put my finger down on a verse. I lifted my finger and the first word beneath it was "Peter." This happens often and when it does, the

Lord has my undivided attention. I know that God is speaking to me directly through the words that were originally spoken to the Apostle Peter. This verse was John 21:20. In this scripture, Peter is with Jesus after His resurrection. Peter sees John and asks the Lord about him. Jesus instructs Peter to quit comparing himself with others. Then He says, "Peter, you follow me." In essence He said, "Peter look to me and stay on track." Peter did not know that the day of Pentecost, the outpouring at Cornelius's house, and the rest of the book of Acts was just around the corner. In a moment of my own weariness, the Lord used these verses to speak the same words to me just last night. I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Peter, forget about everything else. You follow me." Instantly, it brought me back to my resolve. Once again, God used the Bible to give me personal direction. This book is powerful.

I have discovered seven gifts that the Lord gives us in this one book. I will list them, then we will look at them individually.

The seven Bible gifts are:

1. 1. A **Search Light** for direction.
2. The **Staple Food** for believers.
3. The **Standard** for all doctrine.
4. A **Sword** and a **Shield**.
5. A **Sanctuary** and a comforter.
6. A **Sanctifying Agent**.
7. Our **Supernatural Inspiration**.

A Search Light

The Bible is a search light that leads us to truth. To find direction, read the Bible. First of all, it brings us to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Bible gives us everything we need to be fully furnished for life and godliness.

Our Staple Food

The staple food in Japan is rice, in Italy it's pasta, in Mexico it's corn and in Britain it's potatoes. The Staple for believers is the Bible. It is written; *"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."* Mt. 4:4

The Standard for Sound Doctrine

The Bible says, *"Present yourself to God ... a workman ... who correctly handles the word of truth."* 2Ti. 2:15
When we study the scriptures we

discover the meaning of a text. We put it in context and balance it with the rest of the Bible. Then it becomes our standard for doctrine. The Bible is our final authority for finding God's truth. It answers every question, settles every argument, and removes every doubt.

A Sword and a Shield

The Bible is part of our spiritual armor. We read, *"Take up ... the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."* Eph. 6:16-17

Jesus and the apostles quoted the Old Testament on a regular basis. More than 200 Old Testament quotes are in the New Testament. When Jesus or the apostles defended themselves against demonic attacks, they would say, "It is written." The word of God is a sharp sword and a powerful shield. Use it.

A Sanctuary and a Shelter

When I was a young I was a pastor of a small church. The time came for me to leave that church and I called the bishop to inform him. He was not happy and immediately launched out with verbal attacks. He was abusive and while I knew I had to move on, I still loved all of the people in the organization, including him. It was a painful moment in my life. I prayed, then opened my Bible and put my

finger on a verse. At the top of the page. I read, *"The Garden of Gethsemane."*

Then I lifted my finger and read, *"And Peter followed Him."* I was immediately comforted by the Holy Spirit. The scriptures are a sanctuary and a shelter in the time of storms. Psalm 23 alone, has brought comfort to millions.

A Sanctifying Agent

The Bible is like a mirror. We read it and we see our imperfections. Then we can change. It exposes pride and reveals our carnal ways. It teaches us to be godly, to be patient in trials and to embrace the fruit of the Spirit. It is a sanctifying agent. The process is called the washing of water by the word.

Our Supernatural Inspiration

Faith and miracles bring us into God's purpose for our lives and the Bible tells the stories of ordinary people doing miracles. When we read them, faith is born in us and we begin to expect, ask and then to see miracles. Read it and believe.

For an amazing study read Ps. 119. Where it says Laws, statutes, precepts, testimonies or commands try saying, "Your Word" or "Words" ^{AΩ}



Christians for Messiah Ministries

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Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

Office: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: wynsusa@comporium.net www.peterwyns.org www.unexpectedfire.com

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