

THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE

PART ONE

PSALM 19:7

This morning we're starting on the completion of our first series that we went many weeks on the Book That You Can Trust. And I shared with you the 7 reasons why I believe the Bible can be trusted. This morning we're going to look at the Book that can change your life or more directly the power of the scriptures. Turn to Psalm 19 and as you turn there I'd like to talk to you about probably my favorite subject next to the Lord Jesus Christ and that is the Book that He wrote, the Bible.

I was deeply impressed as a young man seeing a very old servant of the Lord who used to speak at the school where I was taught how to study the Bible and that man was very sick. He had a palsy of some kind and he just basically shook all the time. He could stand still and even when he talked he stuttered. But the most amazing thing was when he got into the pulpit he always stood sideways and he didn't move. If you could get used to seeing him from the side-- he was one of the most powerful preachers. And to this day—and he's probably gone by now because he was quite old when I was a young man--- I can still remember when he stood up and held his Bible up and quoted a poem that he had written about the Bible. I searched and searched and found my notes from school and collected them together and I'm not quite sure I have every word of it but I'd like to share part of it because it expresses somewhat of what I believe about this Book.

As we open our Bibles to the Psalm extolling the majesty of God's word, Psalm 19:7, The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV) is our text.

Many years ago a missionary statesman stood holding a well worn Bible and said:

Though the cover is worn and pages torn...
 and places bore traces of tears--
 More precious than gold is this Book **that I hold;**
For it shatters and scatters my fears--
 When I prayerfully look in this precious old Book
 many pleasures and treasures I see--
 Many promises of love from my Father above,
 who is nearest and dearest to me.
 This Book is my guide, 'tis a friend by my side--
 it will brighten and lighten my way.
 And each promise I find, soothes and gladdens my mind
 as I teach it and preach it each day.
 To this Book I will cling, of its worth I will sing
 though great losses and crosses be mine.

For I cannot despair, though surrounded with care
while possessing this blessing divine.

-Don Jennings-

The 19th Psalm and the 7th verse gives us the direction we're going this morning if you want to read it follow along and let the blessing of the 19th Psalm be yours. This morning is only the beginning of many weeks we're going to spend looking at the power of the Scriptures as described in this portion of the Word of God because in Psalm 19:7 it says that the Book that you hold in your hand-- **The law of the LORD is perfect**, -it's absolutely whole, it's complete, it is healthy, it's perfect for everything we could ever need- what a blessing as the poet said that this perfect Book is actually a blessing divine that we can see God use in our lives and for the next at least 7 weeks, Lord willing I hope that you'll be challenged from the Bible's self-description- the self description from the author, from the owner, from the infinite God who has revealed Himself from His Word- that you'll be blessed by what He wants us to get from this Book because He's very clear when He tells us that the final reason why I preach that the Bible is to be trusted is because of the life transforming power and the proof of the scriptures and the proof that is most evident around you why this Book is different than any other book is because this Book is the only book in the world that can absolutely change you from the inside out. A lot of things can change your opinion, they can be added to the clutter of our minds. Only this Book can transform our minds. Only this Book can erase our minds. Only this Book can transform us to have the mind of Christ.

I shared with you many months ago a series why I believe the Bible is true- I'll just repeat those points for those of you that weren't with us. There are 7 reasons why I believe the Bible is true.

What is the blessing divine? It is the final reason why I preach that the Bible is literally true is because of its life transforming power. This 7th reason is a crescendo. Looking at them together we can see them as a unit. The Proof of Scripture and then as a second series The Power of the Scriptures.

WHAT WERE THE SEVEN PROOFS THAT VERIFY THE SCRIPTURES?

- I. JESUS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES- Jesus taught and acted and instructed with the basis that this Book that he taught from that he quoted, that he studied was true. He often said "Search the Scriptures" "have you not read"
 - A. Who said that?
 1. The One Who Created all things Genesis 1:1 **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.** (KJV) and in John 1 it says: **In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God- the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him-** that's Christ- so the creator of the universe is the One that said that this Book is to be trusted. He's also-
 2. The One Who Stilled Raging Seas Mark 4:39 **And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.** (KJV) Now there aren't many

people that talk to the water- that talk to raging storms. But when the creator does they listen. And the One who not only made all things but controls the physical universe that we know- said that this Book you can trust.

3. The One Who Quelled the terror of disease also said that you can trust this Book- Mark 5:34 **And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.** (KJV) And she had been bleeding for years and was near death. He quelled the ravages of disease and the One who made everything from nothing and the One who controls every thing and the One who can even speak and disease responds- believed this Book. So if you believe this Book you're in good company. I'd rather be with God because you and God make a majority.
4. The One Who Halted the grip of death is the One who believed this Book- it says in Luke 8:48-56: **And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. 49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. 50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. 51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. 52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. 53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. 54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. 56 And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.** (KJV) You know there are a lot of faith healers in the world- do very many of them go to the morgue and take lifeless, cold corpses by the hand and lift them up and see life course back into their bodies? That's what Jesus did and Jesus believed this Book and that's what his apostles did and as we'll see in a moment they believed this Book.
5. The One Who Calmed fearful hearts- John 6:19-20: **So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, -they were 1/3 of the way out into the Sea of Galilee and the storm was so big that the water was tormented- in other words it was going in every direction and just foaming- it was such a violent storm and it was coming into the boat and sinking them- and they were trying their hardest and they weren't getting anywhere and out of the corner of their eye- they see Jesus walking on the sea, - on a mirror calmness- I mean that would make the hair stand up on the back of our necks- I've never seen anybody walk on water. I have seen in my mind through faith- but have never experienced it- and you can see every foot step He put down- just calmed the raging sea- they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. -and that's lightly speaking- it says they were out of their minds- I mean worse than having a storm outside is to have someone walking on the water**

and have them get into your boat and it scared them- 20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. (KJV) what's neat is where ever you are and whatever storm and what ever boat you're in that's sinking if you just let Jesus in your boat you don't have to be afraid. Now sometimes he calms the storm, sometimes he just takes you through the storm but the One who can calm troubled hearts believed this Book.

6. The One Who Sustains the Universe is the one who believes this Book- that's Jesus Christ- it says Colossians 1:15-17 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (KJV) Now it's interesting- everywhere that science has looked from our world into the ever-enlarging universe, into the macro-space—everything they see there's just more and more. First they saw stars and then they saw galaxies and then they saw that there are clusters of galaxies and now they see that this universe is incomprehensible going that direction and every where you go down from where we are into micro-space there is ever descending florals of symmetry and wonder- but they still can't figure out how it all fits together and how it all got put together and the scriptures say this in Colossians 1:15: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: -that's the spiritual realm- all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (KJV) I was talking with a scientist this week and he says you know the more I study the electron the less I know about it. He said we don't understand the electron, we don't understand how the atomic structure functions as it does. But I'll tell you what you don't even need to know quantum mechanics to know that Colossians 1:17 says that Jesus holds it all together. They have a new particle- they call them gluons- you catch what gluons do? They hold it together- so they've named it but they don't know how it happens- but Jesus does it.
7. The One Who Accomplished our Eternal Redemption also believed this Book and if you want to look at Hebrews 1:3 it might be a good verse for you to underline if you've never gotten this one in your Bibles. We'll be coming back to Psalms in just a second – Hebrews 1:3- I'll start in verse 1 it's so good- God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; -if you wonder who the creator is Genesis 1 says that it is God. John 1 says that it is God the Son- 1 John 1 says that it's God the Son- Colossians 1 says it's God the Son and Hebrews 1--- if you want to know anything about

creation it's in the first chapter of Genesis, Hebrews, Colossians and 1 John and the Gospel of John but look what it says – the creator- verse 3- **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image – exact representation of the Father's nature- of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,** - but that's not even the exciting part- I mean we really don't care what's holding those quasars together out there- we don't really- it doesn't matter to us so much about the 4 foundational particles of subatomic physics- it doesn't really matter- we don't really think about that much unless you're supposed to but look at what it says here- **when he had by himself purged our sins,**- when Jesus all alone purged our sins you know what it says? He **sat down on** – you know the priests worked for 1500 years- they killed thousands- probably millions of animals- they would come home with blood on them- they would come home having walked in blood, splattered by blood, having smoke in their eyes- skinning animals- they never sat down- they worked ceaselessly- they had to keep the fires burning- they had to keep the incense burning they had to keep the ashes out- they had to shovel, clean, sprinkle blood--- Jesus after one offering it says in verse 3 **sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;** (KJV) now He stood up for Stephen- remember when Stephen was martyred he says I see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God? Jesus stands up when we're coming home but the rest of the time He's sitting because His work is over because Jesus paid it all and at the heartbeat of what we believe and at the heartbeat of what Jesus said is the Book you can trust is the fact that Jesus believed this Book and He said **"in the volume of the book it is written of me..."** and I came to purge you of your sins and I paid the price you could never pay and if you'll just simply see that by faith then your sins will be taken care of. Well Jesus believed the scriptures. Who else believed them? The Apostles believed the scriptures and they had followed---

- B. He who controlled the elements, commands demons and declares He is the only One who determines each one of our destiny! He said it, so I believe Him! What are the other proofs? **And the apostles naturally believed it, too. In fact the apostles and prophets- those 40 different men who wrote this Book- declared no less than 3800 times- that what God told them in this Book is what God told them to write.**
- II. Because of the unshakeable conviction of the APOSTLES & PROPHETS: Because all the writers said so thousands of times. They were totally convinced that they were sharing words that were not originating with them. **They were absolutely convinced that it came from God.** They said 3800x "thus saith the Lord". **The third reason that I shared with you many months ago that I believe the Bible is true:**
- III. **SUPERNATURAL ENDURING and SURVIVAL: there is no other book in the universe that has been able to endure ---** Because of its endurance through the ages despite being the target of Empires, armies and infidels the Bible stands **–like the song writer says- "like a rock undaunted through the raging storms of time. Its pages burn with the truth eternal and they glow with a light divine. The Bible stands though the hills may tumble it will firmly stand though the Earth may**

crumble. I will take my stand on its firm foundation for the Bible stands!" This Book has endured undaunted though the whole earth be arrayed against it- God said My Word will endure forever and it has. The fourth reason I believe the Bible is true is because of it's

- IV. **ABSOLUTE DIVINE UNITY:** and I guess the more you read this Book the more you see this- it's interesting to notice even in our newspaper there's not unity. Even in a lot of books that are written there is not unity. I was noting a CNN report and in one report online- it says that 38 so and so's were doing something and in the text it said 36- a thought wasn't that interesting- with all the computers and all the spell checks and all the everything else they can't even get the headlines to agree with the text but his Book has an absolute divine unity. Because of its incredible unity demonstrated in the fact that from 40 plus men (most of whom never met each other) on 3 continents over 1,600 years and produced this Book- and every single part of it absolutely agrees with the other parts and it fits together better than the most finely fitted furniture; better than the most finely crafted building blocks (NOTE: building blocks are not normally finely crafted- not a good illustration) and this Book was fitting together divinely because it has a divine unity that is one of the proofs that God sent it. There is an unmistakable fabric woven from prison to palace, desert to dungeon, hillside to holy places. There is one common denominator, one shared theme and one united message. There is but one system of doctrine, one system of ethics, one plan of salvation and one rule of faith. One King and One Kingdom and one entrance into His presence! This Book is divine- because Jesus believed it was divine- it's divine because the apostles and prophets believed it was divine- it's divine because it has an incredible unity and it survived- the 5th reason I taught you why the Bible is true is because of its
- V. **SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY:** Because of its scientific accuracy in every realm. Genesis is foundational to all we know in life – the universe, the family, the beginning of sin to civilization and the crumbling there of- but more than just historically- Origins, purpose and destiny. Then week #5 was Creation as recorded by the Word of God! In every science it is absolutely accurate: astronomy, geology, hydrology, oceanography, isostasy- and you say what's that? That's the balancing of the continents- everything is accurate- sixthly-
- VI. **PROPHETIC ACCURACY:** Because of its fulfilled prophecy, the Bible is proven itself to be true over and over- but this morning and back to Psalm 19 I'd like to show you the last reason why I believe the Bible is true and this will begin our new series on the power of the scriptures- the Book that can change us- and the reason that I believe the Bible is true is built upon what Christ believed, the apostles believed and its endurance, it's unity and it's scientific accuracy and it's historical accuracy- but the accuracy that you can demonstrate today is that this Book if opened up to a receptive heart can utterly change the person's life. Just for an example let me share some of the Scriptures that surround the life of Christ that are quite well known. Isaiah 41:23 and **HISTORICAL ACCURACY:** Because of its archaeological verification (Criswell)
- VII. **TRANSFORMING POWER!** What would cost you thousands of dollars and endless time in therapy is just a poverty-stricken shell of what you could get in an instant from the powerful Author of this Book because this Book is perfect. The Bible of all

books in the worlds has the power to change your life. Other books change your opinion on matters. Only God's book can cause you to have a new nature, a new heart, a new spirit, true peace and true love. That is all only from the Scriptures.

SO WHAT WERE THOSE SEVEN PROOFS THAT VERIFY THE SCRIPTURES?

- I. JESUS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES
- II. APOSTLES & PROPHETS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES
- III. SUPERNATURAL ENDURING and SURVIVAL OF THE SCRIPTURES
- IV. ABSOLUTE DIVINE UNITY OF THE SCRIPTURES
- V. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF THE SCRIPTURES
- VI. PROPHETIC ACCURACY and HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE SCRIPTURES
- VII. TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE SCRIPTURES ! The Bible of all books in the worlds has the power to change your life. Other books change your opinion on matters. Only God's Book can cause you to have a new nature, a new heart, a new spirit, true peace and true love. That is all only from the Scriptures.

HOW DO THE SCRIPTURES CHANGE ME?

Well Psalm 19 introduces us to the wonderful truth of this Book and I want to show you starting in verse 7 and we're going to in the weeks ahead actually start in verse 1 but this morning is only an overview and only an introduction but let me read to you 7-9 it says:

7 The law of the LORD [is] perfect, and by the way there are 6 synonyms that are used for the scriptures- the law, the testimonies, the statutes, the commandments, the fear and the judgments- so

7 The law of the LORD [is] perfect, and there are 6 attributes that are given- the law is perfect- the testimonies are sure, the statutes are right, the commandments are pure, the fear is clean, the judgments are true but it says **The law of the LORD [is] perfect,** and it says there are 6 different effects that that law gives and it says here- that the perfect law can restore **the soul:** --- a high ranking medical official in California once said and I'll never forget this in the paper he said if we could find a cure for guilt we would empty half the hospitals in California- he said those people are racked with guilt and he says they're having mental problems and they're having emotional shipwrecks and they're having all kinds of --- because of guilt- you know what the Bible says? It says---- -----and this is God's self-description- here the power of scriptures are saying they can change me and we're introduced to what God thinks of the Bible and He says my Book is perfect and it can restore your soul- it can restore your mind- it can restore your emotions- it can restore your happiness- your peace- your tranquility. The scriptures then are said to be perfect and God's testimonies-- **the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.** You don't have to go to school, you don't have to have titles and degrees- the Psalmist said I have more knowledge than all my teachers if I know You- and if I know Your testimonies- the simplest saint with divine wisdom has far more

than the greatest prolific writing scientist because they have true wisdom- and he might only have facts that he doesn't even understand- 8 The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether. And basically what the Psalmist tells us is that God has titled His Word in six ways-

In one place in the Bible the Powerful Scriptures are most clearly displayed. In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us. We are introduced in this passage to the first of six synonyms for the Word of God. In fact there are three sets of truths:

1. There are Six TITLES given for the WORD: law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, fear, and judgments.
2. There are Six ATTRIBUTES given for the WORD: perfect law, sure testimonies, right statutes, pure commandments, clean fear, true judgments. And he says my law is perfect, my testimonies are sure, my statutes are always right, my commandments are always pure, the fear of the Lord always leads to cleanness and my judgments are always true
3. There are Six EFFECTS given for the WORD: perfect law restores, sure testimonies makes wise, right statutes rejoices, pure commandments enlightens, clean fear endures, true judgments vindicates. And he says when you get to know my perfect law it will restore you and when you get to know my sure testimonies you'll get wisdom and when you know my right statutes your heart will overflow with rejoicing and when you see my pure commandments your eyes will get clear and when you see my clean fear you'll endure forever and when you accept my true judgments they will vindicate you forever. This little section- these 3 little verses in Psalm 19 we're going to spend the next many weeks on reveal the Word in a whole new, powerful and refreshing way. And that's my prayer- when I think about this Book it's just ever new and ever powerful and ever refreshing in my life and basically what we get is-
 - They give us God's purpose and plan for His Word. -why he wrote it and what he wants us to do with it-
 - They are His review on this new product He has manufactured.
 - They give us the operator's manual for this new high-powered instrument—how to operate our life, our spirit, our body, our time- but basically and if you want to be a writer in your Bible in my Bible I have noted the 6 ways that God describes His Word- the first part of verse 7 it says the law of the Lord is perfect- that's-

1. THE DIVINE TEACHER: I went to school at Michigan State University, Bob Jones University and Dallas Theological Seminary and the Master's Seminary and I've studied in Europe and I always would go to class but I never had a divine teacher- I had some good ones- I had some well-known ones- I had some famous ones- I had some that wrote a lot of books and made a lot of money- but you know when you and I sit all alone early in the morning or at noon or at night and we sit before this Book and we close our eyes and lift our hearts and say open this Book to me- the divine teacher Himself sits in residence to teach us. That's better than going away to

school and you can do that anywhere and anytime and I hope you did that this morning to start your day because God's truth can totally transform because when the divine teacher teaches he can change our lives-

2. **THE DIVINE WITNESS:** What's thrilling is that we're going to spend a whole morning looking at this but God says hey you want to know about how the world began—I'm the only one that was there and he says I witnessed it. Do you want to know how sin entered the world? God says I'm the witness and it says in Psalm 19:7b that God's testimony is sure. Have you ever been in a car accident and some people said oh I saw that and they come to court and someone's bought them off and they say I don't remember now- I don't know how it happened. You know you know that someone's talked to them and at the site you know it was clear as day they said oh I saw that yeah he hit you. And you watch some of the stuff we've seen in the last year on TV and the witnesses and how you know they say what ever they're supposed to say --- you know what God says? You tired of that he says my testimony is always sure. You want to know about life and death and the hereafter and how the world's going to end and how it began- you want to know how to raise your family and how to have a perfect marriage and how to have wonderful life on earth? I'm the witness he says just put me on the stand and he says you want to know the witness stand is? It's my testimonies in this Book and it's sure and you can trust me. Thirdly he gives us
3. **THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS:** Now I go and visit a different family every week and my secretary writes these little notes to me and one of them I always remember last week she said you may never return after following these directions because these people they didn't know where they lived- they said well go up to where the old aircraft plant used to be and turn left and then go to where the old rotary used to be and turn right and you know go down to where the sign's missing and turn left again she says you're never going to get back to the office after that. Look at what verse 8 says- the precepts of the Lord are right- Precepts means His directions. God has given directions- Bonnie's grandmother- wonderful, wonderful incredible cook- you try and get her recipe down- directions on how she makes it- oh a dash of this, a pinch of that just a handful of this and stir in a little of that until it looks good--- you can't follow those directions- God says my directions, my statutes will give you direction to the only secure place in the universe. He said it's all going to fall apart- it's all going to burn up. If you want to get there and get safe- follow my directions. Don't lean on your own understanding, don't go your own way. He says my statutes, my directions to you are absolute. The second part of verse 8 gives us God's commands- the command of the Lord us pure- these are the
4. **THE DIVINE DECREES:** God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes. You know we live in a relativistic world- we live in pluralism and you know I believe in religious pluralism—I don't think that they should hang us and we shouldn't hang them- we live in a free society and if they want to shave their heads and dance around clapping little things at the airport and collect money that is fine. But you know what? **SIDE ONE ENDED HERE AND SIDE TWO STARTED WITH:** In a world with absolutes anymore it's relativistic. What people say is that's good for you but it doesn't matter to me. You know what God says? I'm going to give you my divine decrees (verse 8b) I'm going to give you my commands and these are non-negotiable, they are not optional. Either you do them or you die. Either you follow them or you are damned forever. I mean God is absolute. I was sharing yesterday with the men at the men's discipleship- I said you know it's interesting that with God

there is no gray area. He's patient with us- we have our gray areas--- they are usually something we want to do and we're not sure—we say it's a gray area you know I have the liberty to do it. God doesn't have gray areas- it's either right or wrong. God says I have my decrees- they're not optional- they are not for you do decide on you must follow them. Look at verse 9- the fear of the Lord is clean. In the margin of my Bible I have the fear of the Lord is

5. **THE DIVINE CONDITION:** we are to be fearing God, and lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me. You know how to live a life that's pleasing to Him? Just know He's watching all the time. I told you this many times because we all experience it--- do you ever do something and then you look around and hope that no one noticed? You trip on your own feet and you get up and look around and straighten yourself out and hope no one saw you. You know what's even worse- you're sitting in the car and you're doing a little personal hygiene and you look over and someone's looking at you and you know you hope they didn't see you doing that you know it's so embarrassing- but you know what? God is watching all the time and God sees us. It reminds me of the time that I called a family at a church I pastored before and their little child answered the phone- "hello"- I said this is Pastor Barnett and they dropped the phone. So I was on there and I--- you talk about a bug in the house—I was waiting for them to come to the phone—I wasn't trying to listen in to the family but I stood there and I heard the most amazing stuff. They did not know that the phone was off the hook and it was just dangling there and the children never told the parents and I was just waiting for the parents to come and I listened to them and finally I hung up because I didn't want to be embarrassed and I didn't want them to be embarrassed. But you know what? God---- the phone is never hung up with Him. He's listening--- the blinds are never drawn in our lives, the privacy curtain is never down, darkness does not hide Him—He says I see in the dark as in the noonday. And you know what He says in verse 9- the fear of the Lord is clean. And this is going to be a good one—when we get to this in 3 weeks. But if you want to live a clean life—fear God—realize He's right there with you on the business trip, He's right there with you when you're all alone at home. He's right there when you're in front of your computer monitor logging in and everything that goes through that screen or everything that goes across your eyes or everything that goes through your mind when you're looking at someone or something—He sees. And if you and I fear Him I would like the Psalmist who said I will set no wicked thing before my eyes--- as Job who said he made a covenant that his eyes won't look at young ladies—Job said I'm a married man—you know how he learned to not look at young ladies as a married man? He learned to not look at young ladies as a single man because marriage doesn't make you stop looking- it makes it worse if you have a problem and have not got those eyes bridled. The Scriptures say that the divine condition is we're to fear God and love Him and acknowledge He sees us. And the last one that we're going to see in verse 9b- is the judgments of the Lord are true---
6. **THE DIVINE DECISIONS:** God's judgments, His final word on everything! He said Jacob I have loved and Esau I have hated- that's His judgment- He says that's it and we don't question it. Did you know God never apologized to Job for killing his kids- or for making him scrape his body with a broken pot? He never apologized to Job that everybody was mean to him. Why? Because the divine decisions- God's judgment, His final word on everything isn't up for negotiation. It's not like the UAW contract this month. God says no- He said I'm God and you're not and as soon as you

understand that everything's great and that's something we need to learn- this Book contains the divine decisions.

Turn with me to Psalm 19:7: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV) Here God tells us that His Word is to be our TEACHER, the Word is identified as a DIVINE TEACHING. God says in my Book I give rules for living!

What God is saying is that if you were a castaway on a desolate island somewhere and only had a Bible, you could see the utter transformation of a society and the people of that society by the proclamation and reception of the WORD. No other books, ministries, schools, clinics, counselors support groups or media needed! You just need to proclaim and receive this Book. You know people they're always nervous—I see this—I call it the book growth paralysis or shakes you know they're just worried that there's a new book out there that they haven't read yet- a new book about the Bible or there's a new Bible teacher or tape or something or a seminar or conference that they haven't yet gotten to or a new devotional book or a new pen to underline the Bible with and they're just like this and they don't realize that they've got it all right here and it doesn't matter whether they use a cheap throw away pen or if you buy the \$25 or \$250 mont blanc- it doesn't -- -- you've got everything right here it's just stop thinking about and planning and kept and just do it, get into it let this be the divine teacher. Let this be the divine witness to what God has only witnessed—let it be the divine directions for your life and the decrees to give you a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes of life of your condition of His decisions. So God's Word can change our lives. Witness the work of Jonah in pagan Ninevah!

So we are focusing on the Power of Scripture. We need to see three things in this study:

1. What does God claim His Word can do?
2. What changes take place when we let Him work in our Life?
3. How does God define the role His Word is to have in our life? And that will be the marvelous six-fold portrait of the Scriptures in Psalm 19.

I want to conclude in the last 8 minutes with 7 facets of coming before this book and some of you maybe can't think that fast so I'll talk fast and you listen fast OK? And I want to give you coming before this book if this was coming before the doctor- I'm going to talk in doctor terms what God wants to do in your life and you might want to write these down somewhere, OK? This is not Psalm 19 this is just free, OK? This is dessert after all that we looked at this morning.

**CONCLUSION:
THE BIBLE IS POWERFUL,
SO THERE ARE
SEVEN REASONS TO STUDY GOD'S WORD.**

They are because:

1. ITS GOD'S BIOPSY: you know if you go to the doctor and you have little lump or a little growth there or a smudge on the x-ray they go in and they do a biopsy and they want to cut a little of that and check it

and this is God's biopsy- this Book is A DIVINE REVEALER -- It discovers and convicts us of sin in our lives – it will go right to the cancer in our life if we let it.

John 16:7-10 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (KJV) Do you know what He said? The Holy Spirit stays around here to convict the world of it's lostness and to convict us when the Spirit of God gets grieved and quenched that there's sin in our life. Have you let God do a biopsy on you lately? Have you said with Psalm 139:23-24: Search me O God and know my heart- see if there's any cancer in me, any wicked way.

2. ITS GOD'S SURGERY: A DIVINE REMOVER -- Through it God's Spirit cleanses us from sin- from disobedience- He can take the hard heartedness away from us. He can take away that which grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. God's Word is the divine remover, it's surgery, it can cut out of us what is harmful. Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, LISTEN- purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Have you seen things you shouldn't have seen? Have you listened to things you shouldn't have listened to? Have you done things that you wish you'd never done? God's Spirit- if you want to let go of them- that's a big if- a lot of people they have these little things in their mind they don't want to let go of- but if you want to get rid of that picture or that memory or that thought or that experience- it says He will purge your conscience from works that lead to death. Then you can draw near to Him unashamedly-

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (KJV)

3. ITS GOD'S THERAPY: I mean have you ever had major knee replacement or you know a little heart deal or a little you know bone reset? You have to go through therapy. God's Word is the DIVINE RESTORER -- It imparts strength to our spiritual man.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. (KJV) That's God's therapy- God's divine therapy is that He wants to come in, discover the problem, do

the biopsy, He wants to do the surgery and He wants you to recover from your surgery with His therapy and the therapy is regular healthy doses of this Book, the Book that can change your life. #4 as you're leaving therapy or at least the doctor's office after your check up a lot of times they give you a little piece of paper with something written on it—the prescription. Do you know what the divine prescription is?

4. ITS GOD'S PRESCRIPTION: A DIVINE REMINDER -- It instructs us in going God's way and He wrote us a prescription in this Book and I have this down in my Bible:

Romans 15:4 Here is God's prescription as you leave surgery so you can keep recovering and keep what he started in therapy going: **For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.** (KJV) That's why you should be reading the whole Bible- you should read all the Bible. What was Paul talking about in 56 AD when he was writing that and had only written in 49 to 51 AD 1 and 2 Thessalonians and James was around by then and Galatians was around by then—what was he talking about? There are only about a handful of Bible- New Testament books- he's talking about the Old Testament. He says all the other 39 books were written before- for you to learn from that you might patiently be comforted by the scriptures and have hope. That's God's prescription—to get into this Book and let it remind you, comfort you and let it bring all of us to the realization that we're all struggling sinners saved by grace and that God doesn't condemn us. But He forgives us and He wants us to fear Him. Well fifthly when you go to the divine doctor's office or clinic— not only do we get a biopsy as He reveals our sin; we get surgery as He removes the sin; we get therapy as He restores us to health; we get His prescription on the way out where He reminds us--- but you know sometimes along the way after that process we get a little infection and I call this

5. GOD'S ANTIBIOTICS: and it's in Ephesians 6:17- it's the DIVINE RESISTOR – I have particular ailment- I have poison-ivy-itis and I mean I can just smell it I think and it just comes out every where- it comes out right around my waist, it comes out under my arms and it's just awful. And so I have a buddy that keeps me stocked up with bottles of pills- He wrote it out—how many I'm supposed to take the first day and how many I'm supposed to take the second day and I take those and after I take them for a while he says do you know those things really are deadly and he says you know if you have surgery after taking those it will just about kill you I said oh thanks you know- it helps my poison ivy and kills me but you know what God has divine antibiotics.

Ephesians 6:17 **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, -it's your resistor, it's your sword for victory over sin- it's how**

you will deal with temptation- it's how you will be an overcomer if you will take the helmet of salvation let Him garrison your mind if you'll take the sword of the spirit and hold on to the **word of God:** (KJV) you'll be able to resist the evil one- the dread contagion of that adversary who is after us. Antibiotics--- you know I keep a whole file on what's happening and we're making super germs because people use antibiotics so profusely and so freely that it's actually making mutated new strains of bacteria and viruses that are totally resilient to everything we have basically but God says the sword of the Spirit – Satan will never get resilient (**DO YOU MEAN RESISTANT??**) to that. He will never develop an immunity to the sword of the Spirit it is always powerful as an antibiotic in your life. It will be the resistor of sin. #6 and 7 real quickly---

6. **ITS GOD'S EXERCISE PROGRAM:** You ever have to get on an exercise program? God has an exercise program- it's His **DIVINE REFINEMENT** - - It shapes us into a life that glorifies Him – Instead of reducing pounds or inches He wants to strengthen and enlarge our hearts and this is what He says in

1 Peter 1:7 – God's exercise program hurts cause it says: **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:** God says I'm going to try you, I'm going to refine you. That's my exercise program. "God hath not promised skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through. But God hath promised strength for today, light for the pathway, help on the way." (Annie Johnson Flint)

<http://www.hymnal.net/cgi-bin/hymns/index?t=h&n=720>

2 Corinthians 3:18 **But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.** (KJV)

7. **ITS GOD'S HEALTH SPA:** You know after you go in and get your biopsy, your surgery, and you go through therapy and then you get your prescription and you get some antibiotics in case some bacteria gets you and you start your exercise program—He invites you back for regular visits at His health spa- and His health spa is the **DIVINE REVIVER** -- It drives us to prayerful dependence and this is what it says in

Psalms 119:25 **My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.** (KJV) You ever feel kind of draggy and you go run or walk or do your thing and other than drinking your coffee you should get your high from exercise not from caffeine but once you do that you just feel better. Well God says you want to get revived? You want to feel better? He says just let me quicken you with my Word- it's the divine reviver. Jesus put it this way in John 15:

John 15:7-8 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, -wow- do Christ's words abide in us?-- ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (KJV)**

So THIS INDISPUTABLY proven Book when taken by faith is powerful. This morning the question is do you let it change your life?

- Do you read the Word daily?
- Do you eat it by memorization?
- Do you seek God in His Word first? Or second after the newspaper, TV and so on?
- You can test your spiritual temperature by the entry level we give the Word in our daily life! Does it come after homework? Work? Yardwork? Health spa? TV? Morning paper? Today show? Does it enter at the top? What entry level do you give this divine teacher in your life? It shows your temperature spiritually. God says this book is perfect and it's a divine treasure. Let's bow before Him in thanks for this book that He's given us to reveal Himself.

Lord Jesus I thank you that Your Word is forever settled in Heaven; Your Word reveals how you want us to live. It's the only reliable testimony of how we got here and where we're going. It's the only map which will show us how to get to safety- eternal safety. I pray that as we begin in the next weeks ---- go on a journey looking at the power of scripture that we will let Your Word point out the cancer in our lives and remove it and that You will exercise us and strengthen us and give us the therapy we need to walk in obedience and fullness of joy and that most of all that we will know Your Spirit taking the blood of You Lord Jesus and purging our consciences. Our hearts desire is that every one of us in this room would be able to draw near to You in full assurance with no condemnation, with no guilt that we could come boldly into Your presence. We'll thank You for the great things You're going to do as we yield to Your Word for Jesus sake, AMEN.