

WEEK ONE

# AUTHORITY

## DEEP CONVICTIONS

*All scripture is God-breathed...*  
*-2Timothy3:16*

In your first week you will be studying passages that show the importance of living by God's Word and no other authority. This is a deep conviction that you need to have in your heart and one that you need to pass on to others.

### Day 1-The Final Authority \_\_\_\_\_

1. If you have not read the introduction of the previous page, please do so before you begin.
2. Before you actually begin this plan for Bible study, please take a few minutes to write in your notebook what your baptism into Jesus Christ meant to you. Why did you do it? What has changed because of your decision? Keep this statement in a safe place and refer to it often. Even as the years pass it will serve as a powerful reminder to you of the significance of your decision and of what you want to share with others.
3. As you begin to live your life for God it is important that you begin studying God's word with the right type of respect and eagerness. Turn and read 2 Timothy 2:15. How can you be obedient to this scripture?
4. Read again Matthew 28:18. Write down what the authority of Christ now means in your life.
5. Turn to John 12:47-50. What happens to the one who does not accept the words of Jesus? What does God want for us? How do we find that?
6. It is important to remember that God's word is our authority. His word is our standard for living. It doesn't matter what people have taught you before or what "you" think; but rather, what is final is what God says. Write down a specific example of how this needs to work in your life.

## Day 2-Ungodly Religion \_\_\_\_\_

1. Begin today by reading 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
2. What is the problem with the kind of religion or "ungodliness" described here?
3. Come down to 2 Timothy 4:1-4 and read another description of powerless religion.
4. Why would people ever substitute men's teachings for God's teaching on a given subject? How do you think this tendency might creep into your life?
5. Why would carefully following God's message lead to powerful religion as opposed to powerless religion?

## Day 3-Skill Needed \_\_\_\_\_

1. Begin your study today by reading 2 Timothy 2:15. Take a few minutes and memorize this.
2. What do you believe God is communicating to you here?
3. Write a brief explanation of each of these statements:
  - a.) To handle God's word correctly we must have great respect for it.
  - b.) To handle God's word correctly we must spend time studying it.
  - c.) To handle God's word correctly we must share it with a godly attitude. (See 2 Timothy 2:24-26.) List both godly and ungodly ways in which we can share our faith.
7. In some translations this passage speaks of "rightly dividing the word of truth:'This was once interpreted to mean we need to know the difference between the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures. The verse certainly refers to more than this, but no one can handle the Word correctly without understanding the difference. What is the difference in the Old Testament and the New Testament? (Have a mature Christian check your answer.)

## Day 4-Sound Doctrine \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read Romans 1:16-17. Before you start today's study, ask yourself. "Is anything hindering me from sharing the word of God with my friends?" If there is something, then it needs to be put to death. Remember that it is God's word that has the power to save. Turn to 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 for reinforcement.
2. Turn to 1 Timothy 4:16 and write down what two things are necessary to save yourself and your hearers.
3. There is no power in the things we tell people if we are not living the life we proclaim. Let God's word *convict* people and let your life *convince* them that his word is truth.
4. Read Titus 2:1. What is sound doctrine and how might you learn it? What is the attitude of so many "religious" people toward sound doctrine? Why is it important to learn exactly what God has commanded?
5. Read Titus 1:9. What will we be able to do by holding to sound doctrine?
6. Turn to 1 Timothy 6:3-5 and write down what this verse means to you. What is the connection between false teaching and a bad heart or a bad attitude? Why is keeping a pure heart so important in understanding God's word?

## Day 5-The Powerful Word \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13. Make a list of all the things that God's word can do for you.
2. Not only is it important to know what God's word is, but it is equally important to do what it says. Turn to James 1:22-25.
3. What happens to the man who does what he has learned? God cannot use us if we do not do what he tells us.
4. The person who doesn't put God's word into practice will forget what he or she looks like. Write down some things that you know are right and that you intend to put into practice today.

5. Turn in the Old Testament to Ezekiel 33:30-33. You will not be able to understand the true meaning of God's word until you do what it says.

#### **Day 6- "Seems Right" or "Is Right"? \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Very often in the practice of religion people make a decision to do something because what they "think" seems more right to them than what God's word actually says. What warning do you hear for your life in Proverbs 14:12?
2. For an excellent example of this problem, turn to and read I Samuel 5:1-23.
3. Why were Saul's actions judged to be wrong? What was his justification for what he had done? Why was God not "won over" by his argument?
4. Write down some examples of how Saul's problem might be found in someone's life today.
5. In view of Saul's problem, what attitude do you want to have toward God's word?

#### **Day 7-Building on a Rock \_\_\_\_\_**

1. You have now been a Christian for two weeks. Write down some things you have learned and are wanting to do your third week as a Christian. Share these things with a brother or sister and let them help you and encourage you.
2. Turn to Matthew 7:21-27. Read this passage several times and write down what it means to you. Who are the people who will be turned away?
3. Now turn to Luke 6:46-49. What does Luke say about the one who builds his house on the rock?
4. The right attitude toward God's Word is a crucial foundation for future growth. Read and memorize Psalm 1:1-3. It is so important to stay planted by the stream. Carry this Psalm in your heart, meditate on it often, respond to its challenge, and you will grow!

## WEEK ONE HIGHLIGHTS

