

All You Need Is The Bible

Series: All You Need

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Transitions are difficult. I have had to make three major church transitions in my life. The first one I didn't do a very good job. The second I think I did ok. This one is different because I am not moving away. It is just a change in roles. However, I think it requires reminding us of some very important truths. Change often makes us seem inadequate, that we are losing something, and therefore lacking something that we need. It is important to remember what we really need and what God has supplied.

Peter says in **2 Peter 1: 1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**

Personal and church sufficiency is provided by God and not by men. Someone asked me recently if we can become too dependent on God. Of course not because we are by nature dependent on God for everything.

Over the next four weeks leading up to my semi-retirement I want to remind us of four things that make up All You Need, all of which you have.

All You Need Is The Bible:

I don't remember ever not having a Bible. I was singing BIBLE from my earliest days. Let me tell you what the Bible means to me. (Ad Lib)

The Four Phases of the Word of God:

The Audible Word

Gen.1: 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Gen.6: 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

Gen.12: 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Ex.3: 4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." 5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

The Written Word

Deut.9: 10 The LORD gave me two stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God. On them were all the commandments the LORD proclaimed to you on the mountain out of the fire, on the day of the assembly.

Jer.36: 2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. 21 The king(Jehoakim) sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. 22 It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. 23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

The Word Made Flesh

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word Written on the Heart

Heb.8: 8 But God found fault with the people and said : "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them

by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. 10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

2 Cor.3: 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

God is the great communicator.

Francis Schaeffer in his book **The God Who Is There** says, "In historic Christianity a personal God creates man in His own image, and in such case, there is nothing that would make it nonsense to consider that He would communicate in verbalized form. Why should He not communicate in verbalized form when He has made man a verbalizing being in his thoughts as well as in communication with other men? Having created man in His own image, why should He fail to communicate to that verbalizing being in such terms? The communication would then be three ways: God to man, and vice-versa; man to man; and man to himself." (p.92)

We so take for granted the wonder of verbal and written communication! Imagine a world without it. However for all the communication between man to man there is none more amazing than the words that come from the mouth (and mind) of God.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matt.4:4) You have His word, and it is all you need.