

Bridge builders . . .

must keep **three crucial factors** in mind when they engineer a new bridge.

➡ First they must take into consideration what is called the **"dead load"** which is the actual weight of the bridge itself.

➡ Next, they must factor in the **"live load"** which is the daily traffic carried by the bridge.

➡ Finally, the **"wind load"** is the pressure sustained by the bridge in storms, high winds, etc.

The need today . . .

Like modern bridge builders, you and I must prepare carefully for the "loads" of life we will shoulder. We need a solid foundation on which to construct a future that will stand the test of time and glorify and honor the Lord Jesus. Apart from Jesus (our chief cornerstone), there is no footing more solid than the Word of God.

Jesus described to His followers the difference between "wise and foolish builders":

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.

When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.

The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6:46-49

Many men today are trying to build their futures (marriages, families, careers, etc.) on unstable and shifting sand. In fact Cal Thomas, a well-known Christian author whose syndicated column appears in such newspapers as the Los Angeles Times, reports that:

"While more than 90% of U.S. households keep at least 3 copies of the Bible . . . two-thirds of them do not regularly read them."

In order to help men discover the "solid rock" of God's Word, I am inviting you to join three other men and me in a **Men in the Word** group that will help you:

Benefits:

- Deepen your walk with the Lord
- Build your confidence to handle difficulties in your life
- Enable you to provide greater spiritual leadership in your marriage
- Significantly expand your understanding of God's Word and how to apply it to your life
- Equip you to better respond to the questions often asked by friends, family, and business associates

Accountability:

This Men in the Word group will meet once a week. We will share and discuss what we learned through the passages we have read. In one year of such intentional and systematic reading, the Old Testament is read once and the New Testament and Psalms is read twice.

Our individual attempts to "read-through-the-Bible" often end in failure. This **Men in the Word** group will encourage account-

ability and help you apply Scripture effectively to your life.

Prayer:

I want to invite your wife (if you are married) and/or friends of yours to pray specifically for you as you participate in this Bible reading and discussion group.

Materials:

The BibleQuest Journal is designed to guide you through the Bible in one year. D.A. Carson's *For the Love of God* is the companion volume to this Journal that will enrich your daily reading in the Bible. Both Carson's book and the Journal can be obtained through our office.

Costs:

Two resources are required:

1. *BibleQuest Journal* (\$12.00)
2. *For the Love of God* (\$23.00 book)

This \$35 works out to \$3 per month or 10 cents a day to read all of God's Word within one year's time.

Time Commitment:

While time may differ for each individual, thirty to sixty minutes a day is generally needed to complete the readings. In addition to the daily readings, each man is expected to participate in a weekly meeting that lasts ninety minutes. This time will strengthen and mature your faith.

What other men are saying about their Men in the Word group . . .

● "Men in the Word" Bible study group has increased my spiritual devotion in the Word, my spiritual leadership at home and my walk with Jesus in ways that I've never experienced before. Continued devotions on a daily basis and having other men

involved create an accountable and fulfilling experience!”—Steve L.

● “Men in the Word has been phenomenal for me! Reading the 4 different chapters each day has given me an overall perspective on how God’s Word is relevant from front to back and how each passage gives more meaning and understanding to another. God’s Word is alive indeed! And being in it has been key to breathing new life into my walk with Him. Romans 12 tells us to “renew our minds” so that we may know what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect. I believe this renewing my mind starts with being in His Word and it has given me confidence that the Holy Spirit will lead me into His will because I am getting to know my God and King in a deeper way.”—Devry F.

● “As a result of being in the Men in the Word group, I have become more consistent in my Bible reading. There is no way that I would have kept up with the reading on my own. The accountability of the group is key in helping me keep on track. There is a sense of accomplishment and completeness and I can say that there is not a part of the Bible that I have not read. I would certainly not have taken the time to read the minor prophets or the book of Ruth, for example, on my own. My overall picture of the historical characters and God’s Word is clearer. From reading accounts of the relationships God had with the first century Christians and the people of the Old Testament, I have become more faithful in trusting God.”—Dave N.

● “Once the honeymoon was over, the Men in the Word study became a bit of a burden to me, however that quickly changed. I started missing days here and there, and sometimes weeks of the readings. During those times I was feeling

as if something was missing. I was lacking focus and direction, just drifting through life. It took a while but I realized that there was a direct correlation between my lack of focus and direction and the lack of reading the Bible. It was then that I made a concerted effort to stay consistent with the study. It was amazing to watch how God worked in my life not just at home but at work as well! The more consistent I was the more I could see God. One of the more dramatic changes have been in my attitude toward others less fortunate than me. Now, thanks to God’s work, I see people in a very different way, through Christ’s eyes. It has been an amazing journey that has completely changed my life and as difficult as it was I am looking forward to the next change God has in store for me.”—Wes S.

A Final Word . . .

The world-renowned evangelist, D.L. Moody said that he prayed for years for God to increase his faith. He recounts that it wasn’t until he began reading the Bible, that God enlarged his faith.

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3

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Men in the Word

How God Can Change Your Life Through His Word

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16
