

# *Grace Church*

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting  
Daily Devotional Guide 2018



Deepening our  
Relationship with God

John 17

# Deepening our Relationship with God

## Day 5

**“For I have given them the words that you gave me” John 17:8 (ESV)**

***Key Thought: God has given us His WRITTEN Word!***

When was the last time you received a personal hand-written letter from someone? It’s probably been a while. Unlike the instant communication that takes place today with smart phones and social media, communicating through letter writing took much more time, effort, and thoughtfulness. You were purposeful and deliberate when you wrote a letter and reading a letter had special meaning and significance because it was personal!

Whether we realize it or not, a letter exists that has been sent to each and every one of us personally . . . **God’s written Word**, the Bible! The written Word is God’s effort to communicate to us personally who He is, how He created the world and humanity, His standard of right and wrong, and ultimately how He sent His Son Jesus Christ to save us from the penalty of sin. God’s written Word contains 66 individual letters (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) written over a period of 1,500 years, by approximately 40 different human authors, on 3 different continents, in 3 languages, in 5 distinct genres. God’s written Word is a miraculously unique and purposeful letter . . . intended to be delivered to you.

**The written word ORIGINATES from God** (2 Timothy 3:16) – The phrase “breathed out by God” is a compound word in Greek from the words θεος which means, “God” and πνευ which means, “wind” or “breath.” Literally translated all Scripture is, “God-breathed.” Do you remember in Genesis what God did to bring life to Adam? Gen. 2:7 says that God, “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” In a similar manner, all the words written that make up the written Word were “breathed out” or “given life” by God. God breathing all Scripture means that He is the original source and author of the letter. The God who spoke all things into existence breathed life into the written Word! Now wait, weren’t the books of the Bible written by men?

**The written word is not an INVENTION of men** (2 Peter 1:16-21) – Human beings are pretty good at making up some pretty crazy stories, right (Star Wars, Avengers)? Isn’t it possible that the Bible is simply the result of some

great fictitious writing? Peter says in this book in verses 16-18 that he was writing as a result of an eyewitness experience and not some, “cleverly devised myth.” Peter goes on to say that there is something even MORE SURE than His own personal eyewitness experience . . . the “prophetic word” or the “prophesy of Scripture.” These phrases communicate that the written words contained in the Old Testament were not conceived in the human writer’s imagination or invented as a result of their creativity, but rather what is contained in the written Word is FROM GOD! How did God do that?

**The written word is authored by men GUIDED by the HOLY SPIRIT** (2 Pet. 1:21) – Just like a ship is blown along by the wind or animals are carefully herded in the specific direction by a shepherd, the men who wrote the words of the Bible were “carried along” by the Holy Spirit. The men who wrote each of the 66 books of the Bible used their own words/language, with their level of intelligence, grammar skills, in the context of what was going on in their lives and the lives of those around them, from their personal perspective and experience, AND YET every single word was given to them by God through the Holy Spirit. Now that’s a special letter!

The written Word is God’s Word! Everything that God wants to communicate to us about Himself, how much He loves us, and how to have a relationship with Him, is written down within the pages of the written Word! This is not a letter you want to ignore. Open it, read it, read it often, and most importantly, read it knowing the One who sent it to you!

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. Have you ever thought about God’s written Word, the Bible, as a personal letter written to you?
2. How well do you know God through the letter that He has written?

### **Possible Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for His Word and His effort to send you a personal letter
2. Pray and ask God to relate with you personally through His written Word

**How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?**