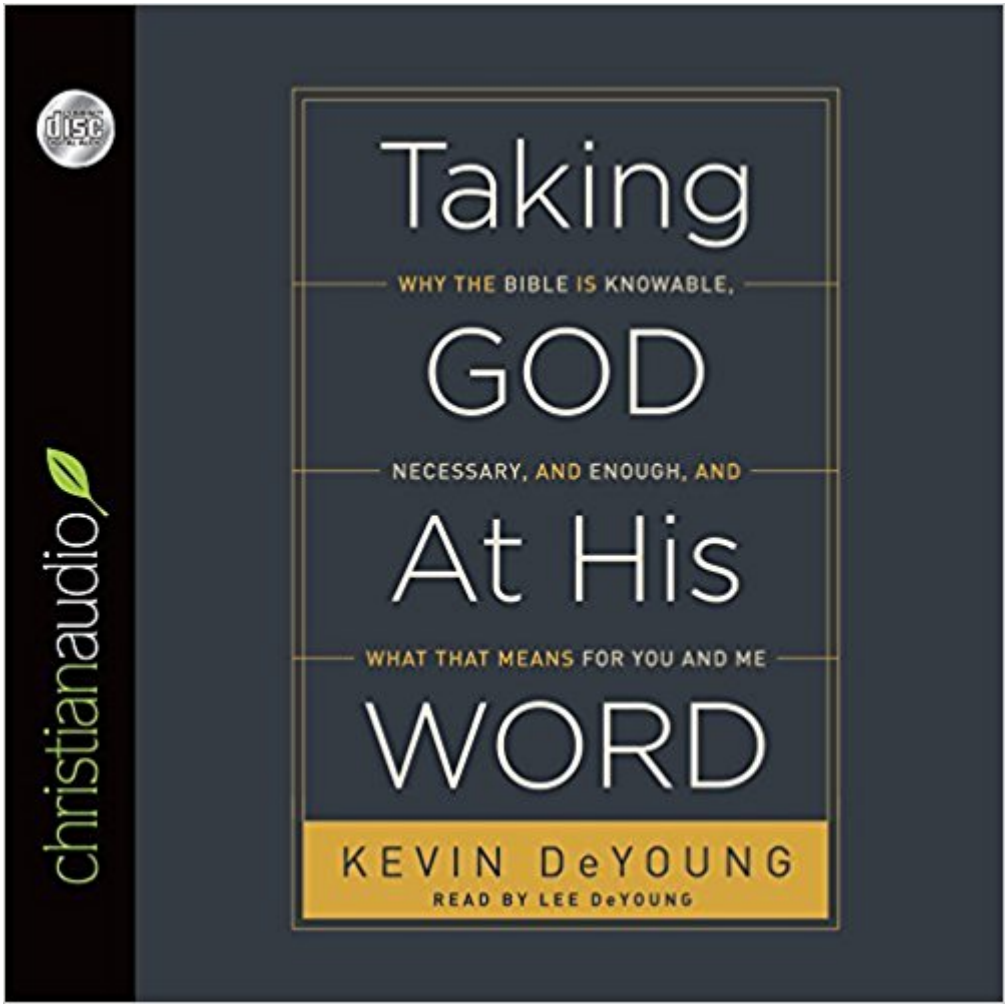
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Taking God At His Word: Why The Bible Is Knowable, Necessary, And Enough, And What That Means For You And Me



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Synopsis

There isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t really a “go toÃ¢â ¬Â• book on Scripture. Sure, there are plenty of theological books on Scripture, and lots of popular-level works on how to read Scripture, and more and more books on the whole story line of Scripture. But there is not one book that people turn to for the basics on the Bible. We need a book that college freshmen will read when they have questions, a book that mentors can use and small groups will employ, a book that a Bible class in high school or college might assign. We need a book on the Good Book that is relevant enough to get a hearing, but timeless enough to be read with profit twenty years from now. ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the sort of book popular author, pastor, and blogger Kevin DeYoung hasÃ Â aimed to write. Addressing the issues of our day—questions related to the reliability, authority, and readability of the Bible—DeYoung tackles these head on, but without complex terminology or a long list of footnotes.Ã Â Taking God at His WordÃ Â serves as a comprehensive and comprehensible introduction to a classic, orthodox doctrine of Scripture for the average man or woman in the pew, helping Christians across the globe gain confidence that the Bible really is knowable, necessary, and enough.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“My trust in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Word is greater, my submission to GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Word is deeper, and my love for GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Word is sweeter as a result of reading this book. For these reasons, I cannot recommend it highly enough.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •David Platt, President, International Mission Board; author, Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American DreamÃ¢â ¬Å“This little

book is a highly readable introduction to ScriptureÃ¢â ¬â„¢s teaching about Scripture that preserves the contours of a responsible and informed doctrine of Scripture, without getting bogged down in arcane details. Buy this book by the case and distribute copies to elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, and anyone in the church who wants to understand a little better what the Bible is. Bad doctrine springs in part from ignorance. Blessed are those teachers and preachers in the church who, like the author of this book, combat ignorance by getting across mature theology in a lucid style that avoids generating theological indigestion.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •D. A. Carson,Ã Â research professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; cofounder, The Gospel CoalitionÃ¢â ¬Å“One of my prayers for the next twenty years of ministry, if the Lord sees fit to grant me that, is that we might see the level of biblical literacy exponentially grow. For that to happen we must learn what the Scriptures are and how heavily we can lean on them. Kevin DeYoung serves this end well in Taking God At His Word. May the God of the Word be known and cherished all the more because of this little book.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Matt Chandler,Ã Â lead pastor, The Village Church, Dallas, Texas; president, Acts 29 Church Planting Network; author, The Mingling of Souls and The Explicit GospelÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This is a brilliant, succinct, yet thorough study of the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, based on what Scripture says about itself. Clarity and passion are the distinguishing marks of Kevin DeYoungÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing, and this may be his finest, most important work yet.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •John MacArthur, Pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California; President, The Master's UniversityÃ Â and SeminaryÃ¢â ¬Å“If youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re looking for a clearly and simply stated doctrine of Scripture, here it is. Kevin DeYoung has accomplished his aim of communicating what the Bible says about the Bible. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s done it with the qualities we have come to anticipate from him: efficiency, pastoral care, wit, and rigor. Most of all, he has let the Word speak for itself."Ã¢â ¬â •Kathleen Nielson,Ã Â author; speaker; senior adviser, The Gospel CoalitionÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“In eight brief, easy-to-read chapters, DeYoung lays out beautifully the classic evangelical understanding of the nature and importance of the Bible in the life of the believer. Particularly helpful are the chapters on the sufficiency and clarity of Scripture, showing us why the Bible is enough and how its basic teaching can be understood by every reader. These are two key points. If we do not believe the Bible to be enough and that its teaching is clear, then we will be carried here and there by every wind of doctrine. I urge you to buy your own copy and read it. There is important teaching here.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Carl R. Trueman,Ã Â Paul Woolley Chair of Church History and professor of church history, Westminster Theological Seminary; author, The Creedal Imperative and Luther on the Christian LifeÃ¢â ¬Å“Attacks on the nature and authority of the Word of God have continued,

unabated, since the serpent spoke to Eve. DeYoungÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book is the best place to start for anyone who wants to understand how properly to think about Scripture, and why it must be affirmed as GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s self-attesting authority.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •K. Scott Oliphint,Ã Â professor of apologetics and systematic theology and dean of faculty, Westminster Theological SeminaryÃ¢â ¬Å“This is the book I will be handing out to those searching for true spirituality, to those who want to hear a special word from God, and to those who want an improved knowledge of God. Kevin DeYoung convincingly teaches that God has adequately spoken to his people. Taking God At His Word is an accessible defense of the doctrine of Scripture, from Scripture, aiming to renew our trust and delight in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Word.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Aimee Byrd,Ã Â author, Housewife Theologian; Theological Fitness; and No Little WomenÃ¢â ¬Å“The longer I do ministry, the more I appreciate a truly simple bookÃ¢â ¬â •a book that rightly orients me to reality; a book that says important things in accessible words; a book worth taking to heart; a book written to care for the readerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s soul; a book that helps to change how you live. Taking God At His Word is simple. It will help you know what you believe and why. It clarifies the foundation for all practical ministry. Because the Bible is GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own saving Word, you have something helpful to share with others who hurt, who struggle, who stray, who find life confusing.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •David Powlison, executive director, Christian Counseling &Ã Â Educational Foundation

Kevin DeYoungÃ Â (MDiv, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) is senior pastor at University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Michigan. He blogs at the Gospel Coalition and has authored or coauthored numerous well-known books such asÃ Â Just Do SomethingÃ Â andÃ Â The Hole in Our Holiness, as well as the award-winning booksÃ Â Why WeÃ¢â ¬â„¢re Not EmergentÃ Â andÃ Â Why We Love the ChurchÃ Â (with Ted Kluck).

Source: https://bit.ly/1nZ7CgVKevin DeYoung, in his latest book Taking God At His Word, encourages us to use the acronym SCAN so we might better remember that the Bible is sufficient, clear, authoritative, and necessary for all of life. I've taken him up on that encouragement, and now have a greater appreciation for the Scriptures. Don't be fooled, however; you nonetheless won't find Kevin claiming that God's Word will answer our every question, be wholly understandable, or that we won't still give in to the temptation to tackle life by our own devices after spending time in it. Sometimes believers just need to be reminded of the fundamental principles and concepts of Scripture. Taking God At His Word brings those reminders and provocative questions to boot.Very interestingly, Kevin uses Chapter 1 to describe how King David in Psalm 119 did not spare the least

of his emotive vocabulary to express how one ought to feel about Scripture, why Scripture must be believed, and what to do as a result of it. Kevin explains that he especially chose Psalm 119 due to the Christian's general attitude about it... that it's long, repetitious, and difficult to understand. All that may be true, but it doesn't change how the particular psalm informs the follower of Christ that he/she should delight in, desire, and depend upon Scripture. Or as Kevin states, Psalm 119 is a Hebrew love poem about God's Word, and rightfully so. Why should the Christian revere the Bible in this way? It goes back to SCAN.Take the Bible's sufficiency, for starters. It seems that many genuine Christians crave extra-biblical revelation from the Lord, whether in the form of prophetic dreams and visions, or straight one-on-one conversation, etc. It's as though they think that hearing a mystical, low-bass sounding voice from somewhere that appears to be in the direction of heaven would make one closer to God than ever. Such ideas seem wonderful and desirable, but they're truly anti-biblical, and create a sense of false hope and awe. The worst is that the source of this could very well be the army of the devil himself. After all, Satan masquerades as an angel of light. The point, as Kevin makes in Chapters 2 and 3, is that God has already spoken, and is still speaking to each of us on an individual basis in His written Word, and ultimately through His Son Jesus Christ. Sure, it would have been incredible to be nearby when Moses encountered the burning bush, or among Christ's inner circle while He was being gloriously transfigured, etc, but we have God's sufficient and complete revelation. It just happens to be written down, but that makes it no less exactly what we need. And also don't forget that no one in the Bible actually had the Bible. We are privileged to have it, to say the least. And if we are convinced that God is actually speaking as we read the Bible, then we won't itch to hear a disembodied voice that claims to be Him.The Bible, as Chapter 5 of Taking God At His Word states, is also clear. That doesn't mean Christians will know everything. Only God is omniscient. It also doesn't mean that every passage is wholly comprehensible, otherwise child-like faith in God's altogether unsearchable wisdom wouldn't be required on our part. What it does mean is that God has made sure every human being can grasp the things that matter most. Whether it's the most important concept of salvation or the doctrines that ought to impact every-day living, Scripture is clear, regardless of what naysayers claim.Chapter 6 is a straight arrow. In it, Kevin discusses why on any subject you might consider, Scripture is the sole authority. God is King. He created all things and everyone. He governs all affairs, does as He pleases, and has rightful claim on our lives. And because He is also Scripture's Author, the buck stops at His throne. He is above all, and answers to no one. Case closed.Chapter 7 then, if you've been following, takes us to the Bible's necessity. Without Scripture, it is impossible to know God factually or personally. That is, again, because He has chosen to reveal Himself to the extent we

need in the inspired Word. If Scripture was not available to us, we also wouldn't know history as only God can know it to be true. Without God's written revelation, we wouldn't understand that Israel is His chosen people. If the Bible did not exist, it would be impossible to know, let alone understand, why and how [fallen] man needs to be saved.The final chapter brings it all together. In it, Kevin points out Paul's instruction to Timothy to stay the course, to stick with the Scriptures as taught by his mother Lois and grandmother Eunice. Believers today would be wise to obey that same instruction. We ought to cherish the Bible teaching we received growing up. And if you weren't raised in a Christian home, or didn't grow up a Christian, then cherish what you received from the shepherd(s) that led you to faith in Christ. Yet of course along with that, there's nothing more important than refusing to waver from what God has given us in the Bible. It contains all we need for this life, and the next. What the words of Scripture actually do, where they ultimately came from, and the all-wise training they provide, makes the Bible the only perfect written work. It is the only truth, and is to be obeyed. Paul understood that, as did Timothy; we must imitate their faith and faithfulness.Thank you Kevin DeYoung, for refreshing our souls by revisiting the Bible's fundamental, unchanging, everlasting truths. Your passion for the Word is contagious, and I hope everyone that reads Taking God At His Word will now start to view Scripture through the same lens King David did in Psalm 119!

This was a great book that presents an understanding for the orthodox Christian view of the Bible. I enjoy reading anything that Kevin DeYoung writes, whether it's in blog or book form. This book was no exception. DeYoung seeks to instill in readers the importance of having a correct view of the Bible in terms of its message, its clarity, its authority, its necessity, and its power. The book was very helpful to me in terms of developing a deeper understanding what the Bible is and how it is to be understood.

This is one of the best books on the Bible I have read! DeYoung lays out his book beautifully. He doesn't try to wriggle out of looking at the tough decisions we each have to make concerning the authority of Scripture. He stays true to the Biblical text. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to grow closer to God through His word, whether new believer or longtime follower.

DeYoung is to be commended for writing with clarity, simplicity and originality. I have come to expect great clarity from DeYoung, but I found his originality surprising because he is saying nothing new. Our Father's have warned us, the battle for inerrancy must be fought for in each generation.

DeYoung restates the arguments of Warfield, Hodges, and Packer (and Augustine for that matter) in a voice for this generation, all in the the 'erotic' passion of Psalm 119.Due to its clarity, this has become the primary book I recommend on the subject.

I haven't finished it yet, I'm only about halfway through, but so far this book is amazing. Extremely sound theology, fantastic writing, and I love the way he pieces it all together through various examples and citations. I highly recommend it no matter where you are with your journey with God, it's great for those new to faith also.

Using it for my class in Theology. Good information

Great book. quickly delivered. highly recommend.

Kevin DeYoung sketches an evangelical view of scripture, specifically limiting himself to a discussion of what the Bible says about itself. He does this very well, but I imagine some will be disappointed in the book because they will have shipped the introductory material and are expecting something new and amazing that speaks in a clear practical manner (much like his previous book Crazy Busy), but DeYoung is assuming at something more important than many readers will realize.

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