

# IGNITING PRAYER'S PASSION & POWER IN US

**THERE IS HELP; THE BIBLE IS ALIVE!**



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✦ For the people of God, the Bible is wonderfully alive, literally animated with the presence and being of our God.

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- ✦ The Gospel of St. John 1: 14 states: "The word became flesh and dwelt among us (p.72)." What does this statement mean to you?
- ✦ Also read Proverbs 7:4: "Say of wisdom, you are my sister." What is Solomon saying?

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💡 Read 2Corinthians 3:2a: “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.” Consider whether you have such a relationship, first with Christ and then with other people.

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- ❖ Is believing that the words of a book (and therefore the book) is actually alive, too difficult a concept to grasp?
- ❖ Does this concept border on idolatry?
- ❖ What does this line of reasoning say about the necessary destruction of old bibles?
- ❖ What is your opinion of pew bibles?
- ❖ Are some translations more “alive” than others? How? Why? Explain. What is the result of this difference?



- ❖ Reflect on your relationship with God and the importance of God's word. (Psalm 119: 105)
- ❖ If you have a personal study bible, consider its importance. (2Timothy 4:11:13)
- ❖ Meditate on becoming a living Epistle for God. (2Corinthians 3:2)
- ❖ Commit to a more devoted study of the bible. (2Timothy 2:15)
- ❖ Determine to read the bible every day the Lord gives you. (Psalm 119:11)



### Exercises for Chapter Four

#### **Case Study:** A Belief Gone too Far ... and farther still?

Several years ago, I witnessed an exorcism. I saw with my own eyes the devil cast out of an individual. I can never forget the authority of the altar workers and their spiritual fortitude. When the voice of the devil in the person would speak, these altar workers would counter with words from the Bible. However, one action during this event did trouble me to some degree. While the possessed person was on the floor, one of the altar workers took the bible and placed it squarely on the possessed individual. Though I remember the act, I don't remember precisely the reaction of the possessed person. I do remember the reaction of the possessed person to the read word of God. There was obvious discomfort in the evil spirit/the devil.

**Question:** Was placing the bible on the possessed individual an error? Was this an inordinate response to the belief that the bible is alive gone too far?



**Notes:**

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Let me present another altar episode. A young man responded to the proclaimed word and came to the altar for prayer. As was the custom in this church, altar workers surrounded him and began admonishing him to “Call Jesus.” (This practice is called tarrying – a way of seeking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.) The young man was unaware of the nuances of this tradition and was taken completely by surprise – all he wanted was prayer. Disoriented and more than a little confused, he began to cry.

Tears at an altar are often a sign that the person is experiencing and submitting to the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this lad, this was not the case. To make matters worse (and this is key) one of the altar workers began placing the bible on various parts of the man's body. Needless to say, he left, never to return.

**Question:** Was this use of the bible an inordinate response to the notion that the bible is alive, gone too far?





**Notes:**

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