

Against  
the  
Tide

GODLY LIVING IN A GODLESS WORLD

DIANE SCALLON

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Against the Tide: Godly Living in a Godless World*

© 2019 Regular Baptist Press • Arlington Heights, Illinois

[www.RegularBaptistPress.org](http://www.RegularBaptistPress.org) • 1-800-727-4440

Printed in U.S.A.

RBP5521 • ISBN: 978-1-64213-456-8

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

# *Contents*

	Preface . . . . .	5
Lesson 1	God's True Word . . . . .	7
Lesson 2	God's Promises for Women Today . . . . .	13
Lesson 3	God's Desire for Women to Interact with Other Women. . . . .	21
Lesson 4	God's Design for Women and Ministry . . . . .	27
Lesson 5	God's Instruction for Women to Uphold Unity . . . . .	33
Lesson 6	God's Command for Women to Be Reverent in Behavior . . . . .	39
Lesson 7	God's Idea for Women-to-Women Ministry . . . . .	45
Lesson 8	God's Power and Purpose in a Woman's Identity in Christ . . . . .	51
Lesson 9	God's Exhortation for Women to Worship . . . . .	57
Lesson 10	God's Models for Women Today . . . . .	63
Lesson 11	God's Instruction for Women to Seek Him First . . . . .	69
Lesson 12	God's Charge for Women to Persevere despite Imperfections . . . . .	75
Lesson 13	God's Master Plan for Women . . . . .	81
	Conclusion . . . . .	85
	Leader's Guide . . . . .	87



# *Preface*

Whether we realize it or not, we are in constant danger of being pulled under by the turbulent current of this world's culture. The apparent safety of moving with the tide is a treacherous error that will sweep us away. But grab hold of your board!

Our security comes from clinging tight to Jesus Christ and letting Him direct us against the tide. In this ever-changing culture, attempting to navigate the vicious tidal waves of broken relationships, empty promises, social media, and worldly expectations can be an overwhelming struggle. But God has given us a firm assurance in Jesus Christ. He equips us to go against those tides with grace. We women must grab hold of God's truths and wade in, ready for the challenge of the daily battle against those tides. With God's Word and His empowering presence, we can learn to trust in God's perfect plan for us and to rest in His guidance through the rough waters. Amidst the tossing waves, we can stand fast and press on, trusting in God's work and Word, knowing that He will hold us fast.



# God's True Word

TO SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE is “to go against or disagree with a prevailing or popularly held opinion or perspective”; it means acting or behaving “contrary to the majority of others” (thefreedictionary.com). Walking with the Lord in our increasingly godless society requires swimming against the tide.

If you are a believing woman, God's Word is important for your daily walk with the Lord. It teaches how to walk in godliness. It teaches Who God is and who you are in Him—which is quite different from who the world says you are.

As Christian women, you and I should be fighting the world's messages about who we are, but be constantly training our minds to believe who God says we are.

## God's Word Is Truth

1. Based on 2 Timothy 3:16, what is the role of Scripture?

God's Word changes us. When we believe in God's saving grace and become His, nothing can take us away from Him. And our whole lives are changed completely and forever. We do not live for ourselves, but for God.

2. What does John 17:17 say about the truth of God's Word?

As God breathed out Scripture, He revealed His character and His will for us. Even if our perceptions or experiences change from one day to the next, God is always the same. This

applies to His Word as well. His Word is true, unchanging, and trustworthy!

As we read the Bible, remembering that God's Word is true, we can ask God to increase our trust in His truth so it will permeate our lives.

3. How would your life be different if you did not have the Bible?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Do you spend time reading, studying, and memorizing God's Word?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. If so, what are some of your routines?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. If not, how can you cultivate a closer walk with God by spending more time with His Word?

## **God Is the Author**

God is the author of all Scripture, which means it is not by human effort that Scripture has one unified story, but by God's design. The whole Bible reflects the same understanding of Who God is: Creator, sustainer, Savior, judge, and loving Father. He is also omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient; that is, everywhere, all powerful, and all knowing.

The whole Bible also presents a unified understanding of Who Jesus Christ is: God the Son, Who became a man and died on the cross for our sins. We learn Who He is by diving into His Word.

The whole Bible also provides a unified understanding of humanity. It shows us that we are sinners, which has led to



separation between God and us. The Bible points us to our need of a Savior.

7. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about who wrote the Bible?

8. What do 2 Peter 1:20–21 indicate about who wrote the Bible?

The origin of Scripture is God Himself, not human thoughts.

9. What do 1 Timothy 6:20 and Isaiah 55:11 say about the Word of God?

10. What does Psalm 18:30 say about God's plans and purposes?

It is important to be learning and gleaning truths from God's Word and to trust in His perfect plans, because God knows best.

## **God's Word Is a Lamp**

11. What does Psalm 119:105 say about what God has given us?

In ancient days, people would strap a light to their ankles so they could see their next step on the path ahead. God's Word likewise lights our next steps in life.

Lights in general give a sense of safety and comfort, whereas sitting in the dark might create insecurity or concern. So we should find it reassuring that God gives us light for our path. Despite the unknowns in this dark world, we have light through God's Word. It shows us Who God is, what He has promised, how we should live, and who we are in Him. God's Word is a

guide for living in godliness, because it shapes everything we as Christian women do.

12. How are you applying God's Word to your life? (Give examples.)
  
13. According to Psalm 119:114, what do believers have in the Lord?
  
14. How has God's Word been your hiding place and shield, giving you hope in hard times?

Many prophetic passages in the Old Testament focus on sharing Who Jesus is as Messiah and King of Kings. They foreshadow Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, which ultimately give His followers eternal hope. A look at the New Testament brings this foreshadowing to life. Jesus Christ did become man and walk the earth, and He did die for our sins.

## **God's Wants Obedience**

God's will for us is that we obey His Word. We Christian women should, therefore, be studying His Word; hearing it preached consistently, ingraining it into our hearts; and applying its principles in our daily walk. Studying the Bible is an easy thing to set aside; however, we should make it a priority.

15. What does John 14:15 imply about spending time reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word?

16. What does John 17:17 say about what the Scriptures do for believers?

As believers, we are called to be “set apart” for God (1 Peter 1:15–16). We are called to holiness and service for Him. God wants us to grow in holiness (1 Peter 1:5–8). This should be an upward trajectory of growth, where we can see how God is working. We are not perfect and will experience highs and lows; however, the trajectory of our lives should move us toward Christlikeness.

## Application

From the Old Testament prophecies of what Jesus would do for us, to the New Testament reality of Jesus’ death on the cross, we can firmly believe in the inerrant Word of God and fully embrace His truth. Remembering the beauty of what Jesus did for us will change us.

17. Do you actively remember what Jesus did for you on the cross?

18. How can you start making God’s Word your priority?

The following acrostic is a helpful tool<sup>1</sup> for remembering the magnitude of God’s sacrifice for us:

**C**rucified cruelly for our sins  
**R**esurrected, He satisfied a promise  
**O**ppressed and stricken by men  
**S**laughtered as the blemish-free Lamb  
**S**atisfied God’s wrath and penalty for our sins

The only way God the Father could make us His children was to send His precious Son to earth to pay the penalty of sin on our

behalf. Jesus was bruised, tortured, and crucified on the cross so we could have eternal life with God forever. What a generous and sacrificial gift God gave us because He loves us! We should never forget God's sacrifice or let the its magnitude be diminished. Also, because God's Word is true, we can firmly trust in God's leading.

---

**Endnote**

<sup>1</sup> Scallon, Diane Christina. *Cultivating a Genuine Relationship with Our Savior* (Scottsdale, AZ: The Book Patch, 2016), 21.