

## The Instruction Manual

Have you ever tried to complete a project without the instructions? Who has tried to build an IKEA bookshelf and tossed the leaflet with the little silent cartoon man to one side in the rush to finish the job? Based on absolutely no research or evidence – just anecdotally and through personal experience – it's probably a majority of men and a few women that think the instructions are just extra clutter to move out of the workspace.

When did we learn to ignore help? At a recent house Christian fellowship meeting, the hosts' young boys were just being packed off to bed when the 8-year-old brought a Lego robot in to show everyone. This construction was a thing of beauty and incredible complexity. And perfectly built. After lots of praise for his efforts I asked him whether he had followed the instructions carefully. "Of course I did. Dur". Well, he is too polite to say "dur", but I could see he thought it for what he clearly knew was such a silly question.

The point is, we teach children to follow the instructions and the rules that will give the best results, without doing the same thing ourselves. At some point we seem to forget this, and I'm not sure when this happens. Maybe in our teens? As we grow up, we probably receive more and more messaging from 'the world', telling us that being independent is good. We need to prove ourselves. We shouldn't rely on anyone else, stand on your own two feet. Learn by your mistakes. Trust yourself. Everyone can create their own future and reality. And so on. On one level this seems to make sense, in terms of preparing for the tough world ahead. But I can't help thinking that it also deliberately encourages a prideful mindset that turns people away from ever looking for spiritual support. Asking for help is for wimps, and prideful people don't want to go back to it.

But doesn't the absence of an instruction manual just lead to confusion and completely the wrong results? How does anyone know what they are trying to achieve in life if they don't know the possible outcomes and there is no picture on the jigsaw box lid? So, instead, we try to build the IKEA bookshelf in a hurry because achieving the pleasure we will get from it is the most important thing, and we must have that satisfaction as soon as possible.

Maybe this is why the world is in such a mess right now, because we don't have an instruction manual for life. If only we could have something to tell us what life is really about, how to navigate to the end of this life and into eternity, how to treat each other properly, to tell us what really matters and not what the world tells us matters, to show us how to behave with better morals, kindness, and love. If only we had something that could tell us more about what will happen in future and has a fantastic record of predicting future events. Or clearly describes what the consequences will be if we make the wrong choice. If we had something like that, and more to the point, used it, I reckon the world would be improved beyond recognition from this broken, morally bankrupt, cesspit of sin we currently inhabit.

Hmmm, I wonder if the best-selling book of all time could do the job! Of course, the Bible does all the above and much, much more. Satan is the architect of confusion, deception, and lies. He wants everyone to believe that you can do what you want, you can make up your own rules as you go, that there is no afterlife and there is no instruction manual. Yet the thing he fears most is the Word of God, and that people may begin to read and understand and use it. He wants you to believe it is anachronistic, past its usefulness and was written by a bunch of uneducated peasants. Yet the Bible is the truth that Satan cannot withstand. Once you understand that, it becomes obvious why he would attack the Bible and mock anyone that studies and uses it for guidance.

Picking up and reading a Bible is utterly life changing. Imagine the power behind words that have been authored and authorised by the creator of everything! It encompasses sixty-six books covering centuries of history, writings of wisdom, beautiful poetry, and hundreds of prophecies, most of which have been fulfilled. The Old Testament demonstrates how humanity is sinful and is in desperate need of salvation to be able to be in the presence of a holy and pure God for eternity. And the New Testament provides the answer to how this can be achieved.

If you accept that God exists and created everything, shouldn't we at least try to understand Him and what He wants/expects from us? We are all sinners, and we must account for, and be forgiven for, our sin to be able to have a relationship with God, now and in eternity beyond this physical existence. God provided us with the solution through His enduring kindness and love for us. It is a free gift if you choose to accept it.

**"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3:16**

Repent for your sins with all your heart, believe that **Jesus** died on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for your sins, and that he rose from the dead to conquer death.

God doesn't lie. Everything in the Bible is truth, it is inerrant. It is an instruction manual on how to achieve eternal life.

Do you want to find out more? Here are some useful resources to begin your journey:

[davidpawson.co.uk](http://davidpawson.co.uk)

[derekprince.com](http://derekprince.com)

[bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com)

[khouse.org](http://khouse.org)

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