

The Book of Books

The National Book Foundation has designated October as National Book Month. Although the foundation promotes authors and books year-round, major events are planned around the country during October to coincide with the announcement of the finalists for the National Book Awards. The awards recognize books of exceptional merit written by Americans.

The National Book Awards had been around for almost 40 years when, in 1989, the board of directors decided to expand the organization's scope beyond literary recognition. The board established the National Book Foundation to raise cultural appreciation of great writing in America. National Book Award authors participate in unique outreach programs that encourage communities to read and write together.

The Bible is no ordinary book. Paul writes to Timothy, "All Scripture is inspired by God," literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). The 66 books reflect the personalities and cultural and historical settings of the 40 different writers, but the Holy Spirit chose the words. Just as God breathed life into the man He made from the ground, He breathed life into His book. The Bible reveals God and His plan for the world. It is as relevant today as it was centuries ago. It still has the power to transform lives.

Since the Bible is like no other book, we need to treat it like no other. We don't stop at reading Scripture; we meditate on it until the same Holy Spirit that originally breathed the words breathes our understanding into our minds. Then we allow God to show us how to apply it to our daily lives.

Whether the passage is fascinating history, beautiful poetry, or a list of names, it has some personal application for us. And it inspires and encourages our residents in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home as no other writing can. When we pause to read from God's Word to those who can no longer do so, the blessing for those who hear it is beyond comprehension.

--Beecher Hunter