



— THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BASS —

LOW END THEOLOGY



♦ VOLUME I ♦



JUST THE ROOT IN THE BEGINNING



*"When a Bassist Finds the Root,
Bad Runs Get the Boot."*

CHRISTOPHER SMITH

BASSIST • PRODUCER • EDUCATOR

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THE ROOT

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KNOW THY
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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BASS

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VOLUME I

JUST THE ROOT

In the Beginning

First Notes · Clean Tone · Gospel & R&B Pocket · 6-String Foundations

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Low End Theology, Volume I: Just the Root

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In the beginning, there was bass.

*And before the fills, before the slap, before the solo,
there was the root.*

And the bassist found the root. And the root was good.

Welcome to the Low End

If you have never held a bass in your life, you are in exactly the right place. This book assumes nothing. By the last page you will hold the instrument correctly, tune it, read 6-string tab, decode a chord chart, find the notes that anchor almost every song, and lock one clean note into the deep pocket of a Gospel and R&B groove. That last skill — one clean note, in time — is the seed of everything a bassist ever does.

We teach on the **six-string bass**, tuned low to high: **B – E – A – D – G – C**. Don't let six strings scare you. A four-string bass is simply the middle four of these (E–A–D–G), and a five-string adds the low B. Whatever bass you own, you already have these strings — we'll begin in the middle, where the music lives, and grow outward.

► **WATCH** • **Welcome from Christopher**

A short hello, and what your first week on the bass will feel like.

Scan or visit: [**christopherbryansmith.com/watch/**](https://christopherbryansmith.com/watch/)_____

HOW THIS BOOK SPEAKS

Every lesson uses the same simple language:

Commandments — Rules you should never break.

Revelations — The idea that suddenly makes it click.

Testimonies — Real songs, real playing examples.

The Offering — Your practice for that lesson — give it your time.

Sunday Service — Play the whole thing with a track.

The Benediction — The one thing to carry with you.

Look for the ► **WATCH** boxes throughout — each one links to a short video where you can see the technique up close. And the **Bass Note Master** app turns these lessons into interactive practice: a backbeat metronome, a root-finding game, and a tuner that listens and grades you.

B O O K O N E

In the Beginning

before you play a note

"First, we prepare the altar: the instrument, the hands, the tuning."

LESSON 1

The Bass and Its Calling

Before technique, understand the job. It changes how you practice everything else.

In Gospel and R&B, the bass is the heartbeat of worship and the emotional depth of the song. It is the floor the whole band stands on. Guitars and keys draw the eye; the bass moves the body and locks the room into the spirit of the music. When a congregation starts to sway without knowing why, that's you. Your job is not to be loud or busy. Your job is to be **right**, and to be **there** — the foundation everyone leans on and no one thinks about.

That is why we start with the root. The root note is the ground. Master it, and you can hold an entire band together with a single note played cleanly in the pocket. Everything else in these five volumes is built on this floor.

REVELATION

"You are not the decoration. You are the foundation."

Meet Your Instrument

Let's name the parts, simply. The long neck is where your fretting hand lives; the metal strips across it are **frets**. The wide end with the knobs is the **body**. The white strip where the neck meets the headstock is the **nut**. The knobs at the top are **tuners** — one per string. The knobs on the body control **volume and tone**.

Your bass has six strings. From the thickest, lowest-sounding string to the thinnest, highest, they are named **B, E, A, D, G, C**. Say them out loud. You'll know them by heart before this book is done.



Here's a memory trick that sticks. Read your six strings low to high as the first letters of: ***"Bassists Eventually Achieve Dreams, God Can."*** Silly on purpose — which is exactly why you'll never forget B-E-A-D-G-C.

Playing a four- or five-string bass? You have these same strings — just fewer of them. A four-string is the middle four (E, A, D, G). A five-string adds the low B. The core of every bass lives right on E-A-D-G; the low B and high C simply build the basement and the balcony. Nothing you learn here will be wasted.

THE OFFERING

- ▶ Point to and name each part out loud: neck, frets, body, nut, tuners, volume, tone.
- ▶ Say your six string names low to high, five times: B, E, A, D, G, C.
- ▶ Find the two tone knobs and turn them fully up — that's your starting sound.

LOW END THEOLOGY

The Gospel According to the Bass

This is just the beginning.

Volume I has thirteen lessons.

You just read Lesson 1 and stepped into Lesson 2. Inside the full method, you'll go from your very first clean note to holding an entire band together on a single root — the foundation everything else is built on.

INSIDE VOLUME I • JUST THE ROOT

- 13 complete lessons, from first note to first groove
- Tuning, clean tone, reading tab, finding every root
- Gospel & R&B pocket timing with a play-along Sunday Service
- The Bass Note Master app: metronome, root game, and tuner

Read the full method online at

lowendtheology.com

"Find the Root. Find the One. Hold the Groove."