

# GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



## 1. Scripture

### An Introduction

In this series we are going to look at the great truths we discover in the Bible. Some would call this 'theology'. It's a word we don't use much today, but it is from a Greek word meaning God (*theos*), so it is the study of God. However there is also a wider meaning of this word, and it is the study of all Christian doctrine or teachings.

#### Why study theology?

1. The most important thing in life is to find the truth! The more we delve into this subject the more we will discover about the One True God.
2. These truths are not just dry facts, but living realities and can transform our lives.
3. We need to know what we believe so we can give an answer for our faith.
4. Jesus said that in the last days there would be many false teachers. It is essential to know the truth so we won't be deceived. Mark 13:22, 1 Timothy 6:3-5

### INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

The source of our knowledge of the truth is the Bible, the Word of God. Perhaps we may ask, "How can it be our source if it is written by men?" The answer is that it was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

#### **1. Nature of Inspiration: How was the Bible written?**

Those who wrote the scriptures were so inspired by the Holy Spirit, that what they wrote was the authoritative Word of God. The Holy Spirit acted on the writers, using their temperaments, gifts, education, vocabulary, style, and illumined their minds, aided their memories, guided their thoughts and choice of words. The whole was from God and written by man. God used man to communicate to man. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

#### **2. Extent of Inspiration: Is all the Bible equally inspired?**

Let us look at the different types of material in the Bible to answer this question.

##### **(a) Records**

- A good portion of the Bible are records of inspired utterances, events and human experiences.
- Records selected for a purpose. E.g. John 20:30, 31. Since the Holy Spirit selected what God wanted us to have, then all of scripture is important.
  - Records that are sometimes interpreted by the author, or are left to convey its' own message.

##### **(b) Direct Teaching**

For example the teaching of Jesus and Paul, and the wisdom literature. Just as the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to write down what Jesus said, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write. There are times when Paul says that he received something from the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:23), while are other times he says it is his own opinion (1 Corinthians 7:25). We should note that Peter classed Paul's writings on a par with other scripture. (2 Peter 3:15, 16)

### 3. Proof of Inspiration: How can we know the Bible is inspired?

How can we be sure that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God? We will look at 5 reasons.

#### (a) External Evidence

Despite the attacks on the Bible it has been preserved for thousands of years. There is a unity that runs throughout the Bible, even though it was written over a period of 1500 years. Other things that point to a divine author is the high moral teaching in the Bible and its' power to change lives. Modern science has often proven the accuracy of the Bible even though it was written long before those discoveries. Then there is the accuracy of the prophecies that have already come to pass.

#### (b) Testimony of Old Testament writers

The Old Testament writers claim to have written what the Lord told them and the prophets were conscious of bringing the word of the Lord. Jeremiah 1:2, 4, 11

#### (c) Testimony of New Testament writers and Jesus

Jesus spoke of the Old Testament as the Word of God, affirming its' inspiration. (Luke 4:4, 8, 12) The New Testament writers quote the Old Testament as the Word of God and often quote fulfilled prophecy. John 19:24, 36-37, Hebrews 3:7

#### (d) Claims of Scripture itself

The Bible and those who wrote it, claim that it is inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21) Other verses tell us that all truth is found in scripture and we must not add to it. (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18-19) Also it claims that it has power to enable us to live a godly life. Psalm 119:9, 11.

#### (e) Witness of the Holy Spirit within

Finally it is only the Holy Spirit who can convince us that this is the Word of God, as he is the author. 1 Corinthians 2:10-13.

## AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Since the Bible is the inspired Word of God and its' source is God himself, it is authoritative. God doesn't change! His nature remains the same, and so is the nature of sin and man's need of salvation. This means that his word is equally authoritative now, as it was in the past. The Bible is relevant to every generation as the truths in the Word of God remain the same. However situations do change and we need the Holy Spirit to show us how to apply those Biblical truths to our lives.



*If the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, then can we take a verse out of context and use it in the way we want to? Job 38:2, 42:7. How should we use God's Word?*



**Everything God requires us to believe is in Scripture. Deuteronomy 4:2**  
**Every principle required to show us how to live is found here. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2**  
**Every instruction for equipping us for God's service is found here too. 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Therefore we need to read, study, memorise, apply and share God's Word. The Holy Spirit, the author, will help us.**