

The Word of God - Our Authority [2]

-What the Bible Says About Itself-

** Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin*

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is the most amazing Book ever written in the history of this world! It contains 66 smaller “books.” Its contents were written on three continents in about three languages by about 40 different individuals who were very different from each other in their occupations. Examples of this would be kings, shepherds, fishermen, priests, an army general and even a physician and others. At the same time all these writings were written over a timespan of about 1,500 years with most not knowing anything about the other contributing authors and on some of the most controversial subjects! Many of these Bible writers had widely differing education and backgrounds. What is so amazing and remarkable about all this is the fact that the Word of God displays such incredible harmony, overall consistency, and one grand central theme through it all!! It is evidence in itself of the miraculous way it has been inspired and preserved, as well as enduring through the long ages of time! Indeed *“holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* The Holy Spirit of God is the real author of the Bible. The same One can enable us to understand its sacred precepts. May you be blessed and rewarded as you begin the awesome journey of studying and researching into God’s incredible Word!

1.) What makes the Bible more than an ordinary Book? What makes it inspired and completely reliable as our authority for this life? John 1:14 *And the _____ was made _____, and _____ among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. NOTE: Even though this text primarily applies to Jesus the Son of God, another illustrative principle can be gleaned from this scripture that will help us understand how the Bible can be inspired. Divine inspiration, Divine thoughts were given to Godly human beings in the [flesh] if you please, and they were recorded down by the human agent using human words and language so that God’s inspired will and message became diffused into human language so that the human race could understand God’s message of love, salvation and the law. God’s inspired message of love and knowledge dwells with us; as the Bible is made widely available to much of the human family. Notice in 2Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the _____ is of any _____ interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of _____: but holy _____ of God spake as they were moved by the _____.* FURTHER NOTE: *In reality, it’s not so much the literal words of the Bible that are inspired so-to-speak, but the chosen men of God that were inspired. Inspiration doesn’t act on man’s words or his expressions but on the man himself. “The Word became flesh.” The writers of the Scriptures were God’s penmen, not His pen. The Bible is thought inspired, not word-for-word inspired. If it were word-for-word or verbally inspired then we would*

have a problem as soon as it was translated from the original language to any number of other languages for the world to understand. Do you see the point?!

- 2.) How much of the Bible is inspired? Are only parts of it or only the New Testament inspired or is it the uninteresting parts such as the history or genealogy (begats) that aren't inspired? **2Timothy 3:16** _____ scripture is given by _____ of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, _____ furnished unto all good works. **Proverbs 30:5** _____ word of God is _____: he is a shield unto them that put their _____ in Him. **NOTE: We do not have the option to pick or choose what we deem inspired or not inspired! These works are sacred and off limits to erring faulty human beings! God's Word the Bible is what judges man -not man judging the Bible! Some Christian churches claim that only the New Testament has authority over us. But Jesus, Who is our example had only the Old Testament to use and quote from and He used it in an authoritative manner! If you removed the whole Old Testament, the New would lose all significance and wouldn't make any sense without it because the whole New Testament is constantly drawing from the Old. To take the position that the Old Testament is no longer valid is an absurdity which, as we continue this study; you will plainly see!**
- 3.) There are some who believe that the account of creation, Adam and Eve, or even the account of the world-wide flood all depicted from the book of Genesis as to be merely a myth and not factual. How does what Jesus say completely refute this erroneous idea? **Matthew 19:4** And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not _____, that he which _____ them at the _____ made them male and female, **24:38** For as in the days that were before the _____ they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that _____ entered into the _____, **John 5:46** For had ye believed _____, ye would have believed _____: for he wrote of me [Christ]. **47** But if ye believe not his _____, how shall ye believe my _____? **Psalm 119:160a** Thy _____ is true from the _____: **NOTE: It was Moses who wrote the first 5 books of the Bible of which includes the first book of Genesis that talks about the creation and the flood story. Jesus makes reference to these as FACT. Those who believe these historical accounts to be fiction, would need to be consistent and discount Jesus and discard the Bible as a whole. Just like what Jesus says in the above verse in John 5:47, if they don't believe the writings of Moses how can they believe in Him?? Even the Apostle Paul talked about Adam and Eve as factual real people who were the first human beings. Either the WHOLE Bible is true or it's all fables. You cannot have it halfway!**
- 4.) What are the basic purposes of God's Word, the Holy Bible which has come down to us through great sacrifice and trial? **2Timothy 3:16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in righteousness: **Romans 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our _____, that we through patience and comfort of the _____ might have

_____. **NOTE: The scriptures provide all the instruction that the Christian needs to have in a knowledge of God, His warnings against sin and evil, and the plan of salvation that provides hope for the lost sinner. With this is doctrine and the many teachings of the Bible which helps us to see the larger picture of what is going on in our world and how to relate to it as a follower of Christ.**

5.) Who is really the central theme and focus of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation? What did Jesus say about the scriptures, the sacred writings of the Bible and how they point and relate to Him? John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom _____ in the _____, and the _____, did write, _____ of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Now Jesus- Luke 24:27 And beginning at _____ and _____ the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in _____ the _____ the things concerning _____. 44 And He said unto them, these are the _____ which I spake unto you, while I [Jesus] was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were _____ in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the _____, concerning _____. 45 Then opened He their _____, that they might understand the _____, John 5:39 _____ the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and _____ are they which testify of _____. **NOTE: The above verses are very plain that Jesus is basically the center focus of scripture, even in the Old Testament because the Old prophesied of Him and the Sanctuary and Ceremonial system with all its animal sacrifices and attending rituals all pointed toward the coming Messiah who would take away the sin of the world! If we really want to know and love Jesus and learn more about Him; we must use the whole Bible, the Old and New Testament. Even major Bible characters in the Old Testament portrayed the different aspects of Christ and His earthly mission. The New Testament became the reality and fulfillment of the Old. That's why we MUST study BOTH!**

6.) Jesus would often quote from scripture. What did He say in how we should order our lives after the Word of God? Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is _____, Man shall not live by _____ alone, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the mouth of _____. **NOTE: It is true we have to have physical, literal food to sustain our physical bodies. But if we go astray from the instruction of the One who created our physical bodies we are even in a more dangerous situation! For true safety, success in this life and assurance of the life to come, we must live by the Word of God and carefully heed its instruction!**

7.) How enduring is God's Word in this unstable and uncertain world that we live in? Isaiah 40:8 The grass _____, the flower _____: but the _____ of our God shall stand _____ _____ . Matthew 24:35 Heaven and _____ shall _____ away, but My _____ shall _____ pass away. **NOTE: The French philosopher Voltaire once stated, "A hundred years from my death the Bible will be a museum piece." But quite the opposite happened, a hundred years later after his death the French Bible Society set up its headquarters in Voltaire's old home.**

Between A.D. 301 – 304, thousands of copies of Bibles were burned by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. He commanded all Bibles to be burned and any home with a Bible in it should be burned. It is said that he built a monument over what he figured was the last remaining Bible. God’s Word has survived many onslaughts against it! But it endures on!

8.) Are the statements about historic events and facts been confirmed by Archaeology and modern research? Isaiah 45:19 *I have not spoken in _____, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak _____, I declare things that are _____.* NOTE: *Again, and again the Bible has proven to be correct in the field of archaeology as well as science and other areas of modern research. Many skeptics have been proven wrong over and over and the authenticity of the Word of God vindicated.*****

- a) For a period of time there was no physical evidence of the reign of 39 kings of Judah and Israel of old. Critics believed this to be a fabrication. But eventually Archaeologists discovered cuneiform records that confirmed a number of these kings. So, the Bible was proven true again!
- b) Critics accused the Bible of being inaccurate about the Hittite nation, Sodom and the city of Nineveh, but again the spade and tools of Archaeology confirmed that the Word of God was correct after all.
- c) Skeptics once said that the kings Belshazzar as well as Sargon didn't exist, but it is solidly confirmed in modern times that they indeed did exist.
- d) Skeptics also claimed that the record of Moses couldn't be reliable because it says writing and vehicles with wheels for transport didn't exist during that time period. Now it's well known that they did.

9.) B.I.B.L.E could stand for “Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth.” How do we recognize this to be true for God’s inspired Word? Psalm 119:105 *Thy _____ is a _____ unto my _____, and a _____ unto my _____.* John 17:17 _____ them through thy _____: thy _____ is truth. Psalm 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man _____ his way? by taking _____ thereto according to thy _____.* NOTE: *What a wonderful blessing to the followers of Jesus that they have a guide and manual of how to live in this tumultuous world where there is sin, evil and uncertainty everywhere! The Word of God provides necessary instruction and encouragement, hope and comfort for the discouraged and desponding! What would we do without it?*****

10.) Can the Bible keep us from falling into sin? Psalm 119:11 *Thy word have I _____ in mine _____, that I might _____ sin against thee.* Job 22:22 *Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and _____ up his _____ in thine _____.* Colossians 3:16 *Let the _____ of Christ _____ in you _____ in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* NOTE: *Notice it says in the above verse that God’s Word can be “hid” in the heart. As Christians we would do well to memorize lots of scriptures and store it away in the mind. It can always come in handy when facing trials, temptations, persecution and even to repeat and share it with others that might need the encouragement or admonition.*****

Saturating our minds with scripture enables us to be in a powerful connection with the God of the Bible!

- 11.) How do we test the messages and teachings of those who teach the Word of God as well as those who preach behind the pulpit? How do we test any supposed proclamation of the scriptures? Isaiah 8:20 To the _____ and to the _____: if they speak not according to this _____, it is because there is no _____ in them. In the Apostle Paul's time did they even test what he said? Acts 17:11 These were more _____ than those in Thessalonica, in that they _____ the word with all _____ of mind, and _____ the _____ daily, whether those things were so. **NOTE: It doesn't matter who the preacher or teacher is, whether on the radio, TV, internet, church setting or some public religious gathering, everything should be tested and measured by the unerring Word of God. "Law" and "testimony" merely means the moral law of God and the testimony given by the prophets and Bible writers. "No light in them," is another way of saying -no truth in them.**
- 12.) Can we understand the Bible in our own wisdom and understanding? Do we need Divine wisdom and understanding to be able to truly comprehend it? Do we need to pray and ask God for the Holy Spirit and enlightenment? 1Corinthians 2:10 But God hath _____ them unto us by his _____: for the _____ searcheth all things, yea, the _____ things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of _____ knoweth no _____, but the _____ of God. 14 But the _____ man receiveth _____ the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he _____ them, because they are _____ discerned. **NOTE: Since holy men of God were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the scriptures, it only stands to reason that the same Holy Spirit is available to give us understanding of the very message He inspired. But we need to pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to guide us every time we begin to study the Bible.**
- 13.) What are some basic important principles for studying and researching the Word of God so that we can understand any given subject? Isaiah 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them _____ upon precept, precept upon _____; line upon _____, _____ upon line; here a _____, and _____ a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. 1Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, _____ in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost _____; _____ spiritual things with _____. **NOTE: Whenever solid scientific research is done in the world of science, what do they likely do before they reach a conclusion and publish the facts? They research and exhaust all the sources of information that they can, whether it's in an indoor laboratory or outdoor natural setting or if it's in regard to history for example; all the pieces of facts and information are gathered before a conclusion is reached. It is similar to serious Bible study. Never should a Bible doctrine be established or based on just one or two texts of scripture. Search out**

the whole Bible and bring all the texts to bear on that given subject. Compare scripture with scripture for the Word of God never truly contradicts itself. Use "here a little" and "there a little" and let the weight of evidence be supported by the overall tenor of the subject that is being researched. A great example of the use and teaching of scripture is to see how Jesus used and taught scripture; and all He had available was the Old Testament.

- 14.) Can children be instructed and trained under the teaching of the scriptures thereby preparing them for a life of usefulness and moral and spiritual guidance? 2Timothy 3:15** *And that from a _____ thou hast known the holy _____, which are able to make thee _____ unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. NOTE: It is clear from the Word of God itself that children and young people can study and learn for themselves and prepare to know how to have a defense against the wiles of the enemy and be prepared for the Life to come. We need to be wise about our soul salvation and realize that the scriptures are priceless if, through them we obtain the gift of eternal life!*
- 15.) Are some parts of the Bible difficult to understand and is it possible to wrest them or twist them to suit our own desire? 2Peter 3:15** *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother _____ also according to the wisdom given unto him hath _____ unto you; 16 As also in all his _____, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things _____ to be _____, which they that are unlearned and unstable _____, as they do also the other _____, unto their own _____.* **NOTE: We should never be surprised or get discouraged just because there are some parts of the Bible we don't understand. The Scriptures have been inspired by an infinite God and it only stands to reason that there will always be areas we don't understand completely with our finite minds. Keep in mind that we can grow in our knowledge of God's Word. This is just more evidence of its Divine inspiration! Can it be twisted or constructed to make it conform to our own preconceived opinions and ideas? Absolutely! We should always keep in mind the context and setting of different scriptures so as not to wrest them from their stated context.**
- 16.) What kind of priority should we place on the reading and studying of the Bible, God's holy Word to us? Job 23:12** *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his _____; I have esteemed the _____ of His mouth more than my _____ food. NOTE: This is pretty strong! The Word of God should have a very prominent place in the life of the Christian! With it we obtain the faith for victory over sin in our lives and its promises provide assurance even for our temporal needs as well as bolster our hope for salvation and meaningful purpose for our present life! What a difference it would make in our world and society if all professed Christians made the study of God's written Word as important as their temporal daily food.*

- 17.) How eager should the Christian be in obtaining a knowledge of truth from the written**

Word of God? How motivated should one be in studying out the precious truths of salvation and how to order our lives in accordance with His will? Proverbs 2:3 *Yea, if thou criest after _____, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;* **4** *If thou _____ her as silver, and _____ for her as for hid _____;* **5** *Then shalt thou understand the _____ of the LORD, and find the _____ of God.* **NOTE: Studying the scriptures sometimes requires diligent and painstaking effort to find the treasures of truth. We must really desire to find the knowledge of God and His great love. If we desire to find it with our whole heart, we can be sure we will be rewarded!**

18.) Has God made promises that can be found in the Bible that can assure us, that what we need in this life spiritually and temporally can be given to us if we but only ask and claim?

2Peter 1:3 *According as his divine power hath given unto us _____ things that pertain unto _____ and _____, through the _____ of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* **4** *Whereby are _____ unto us exceeding great and precious _____: that by these ye might be _____ of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* **2Corinthians 7:1** *Having therefore these _____, dearly beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all _____ of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* **Titus 1:2** *In hope of eternal life, which God, that _____, promised before the world began;* **NOTE: There are said to be over 3,500 promises recorded in the Bible. What incredible security the serious Christian has for searching out and claiming these promises for whatever his or her needs might be!! The texts above say that through these we can obtain the power and ability to develop Godly characters and to surmount any challenges or obstacles that we might face! How can we go wrong on this?! May we take advantage of the incredible riches that our wonderful God wants to bestow upon us! And these Divine promises are ROCK-SOLID trustworthy because as the last scripture above states "God . . .cannot lie!!"**

Brief Quiz

Circle One

- 1.) True/False – The Bible is inspired as word-for-word dictation. [See #1]
- 2.) True/False – Jesus the Son of God is depicted all through the Bible making the Word of God very “Christ and Salvation” centered. [See #5]
- 3.) True/False – Only the main parts of the Bible such as its stories, prophecies and that which pertains to salvation are inspired. [see #2]
- 4.) True/False – Before settling a main doctrine or teaching, the whole Bible should be brought to bear on the subject. [see #13 with the NOTE]
- 5.) True/False – We should always pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us before we study the Bible since He’s the One Who inspired it.
- 6.) True/False – Archaeology sometimes contradicts the Bible with nothing to confirm what it says. [See #8]

- 7.) **True/False** – The Bible has many wonderful promises that we can claim and rely upon.
- 8.) **True/False** – Comparing Scripture with other scripture(s) throughout the Bible on like subjects enable us to understand what the Bible is really trying to say.
- 9.) **True/False** – In these last days our only concern should be the New Testament.

My Response

This lesson has made it plain to my mind the importance and trustworthiness of the inspired Word of God. I see that there is much to learn from God's Word and that it provides the basic answers to life's questions and most of all, what I need to know in order to be saved eternally.

It is my desire to diligently study the Word of God with this series of lessons to better understand God's will for my life!

Signed _____