

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

MOVING FROM DISBELIEF TO BELIEF

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."

~ 2 Timothy 3:16

1. Introduction

- a. This question is an old question – the answer is the doctrine of inspiration
- b. The answer cannot be received by the natural man, the unbeliever, atheist, etc.
- c. The culture assumes the Bible cannot be shown to be God's word, but that is a lie.
- d. Going from belief in God to belief in the Bible is backward – Rom 10:17-18; 1:19
- e. There is no tool in material science to solve this problem.
- f. The Bible is truly, wholly, entirely, and verbally (every word) from God.

2. How we know the Bible is true

- a. This is the easy one. It is provable. You must read it. (This is not a fallacy)
- b. Something is true if it describes reality – not what is popular or commonly believed
- c. You don't even have to believe it to confirm this – 2Co 13:8, Co 2:14, Luke 4:4
- d. The Bible is true about conscience, sin, natural man, corruption, world, past, Israel
- e. Can we trust the Bible in places we cannot verify? Yes, if the rest is trustworthy.
 - i. Trust – requires consistency, faithfulness, real, truth.
 - ii. Trust comes from a record, expertise, motivation, objective (not one man).
- f. That the Bible is true is deniable only by fools, but is it the inspired word of God?

3. Must there be a "word of God"?

- a. God can speak, his power through words (language is evidence of spiritual)–Ge 1:3
- b. God had a purpose in creation – Eph 1:9, 3:11, 2 Tim 1:9
- c. God had the intent in creation to speak with us – Exo 4:10-11, Ps 94:9
- d. God has had ample opportunity to speak to us (>6000 years)
- e. God has spoken – he has revealed his purpose – evidenced by a book (inspiration)
- f. We walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor 5:7) – A book is testimony to that.

4. How we know the Bible is the word of God

- a. Faith is required = the words received – Heb 11:1, Pro 1:7, 1Th 2:13
- b. Men can write books that are true, but they are not inspired by God.
- c. Inspiration is not dispensational, preservation, inaccurate, understanding, revelation, or exhaustive of human knowledge
- d. You know the author of a book by the signature – what is the signature of God?
 - i. Claims to be – "thus saith the Lord" "verily" – Jer 30:2
 - ii. True (historically, logically, judgment, spiritually) – Pro 30:4, Ps 12:6
 - iii. Subjects that man can not know – creation, future, angels, science, future
 - iv. Jesus → the subject of prophecy – Mt 5:18, Jn 3:33,5:31,39,8:14-17,10:34-38
- e. How do you respond to prophetic events?
- f. Jesus and the Bible – similarities of the words and the Word – Lord, liar, lunatic
- g. The Bible is either the word of God or the greatest book ever.
- h. It cannot be forced upon someone, but it cannot be refused – Prov 9:7-8, Eph1:13