

WEEK 2

Is the Bible
Authoritative?

WHAT TOPICS WE WILL COVER?

- Week 1 Introduction of the course and format
Introduction of the Bible
- Week 2 Is the Bible Authoritative?
- Week 3 Is the Bible Trustworthy and Reliable?
- Week 4 Can I trust the Old Testament?
- Week 5 Can I trust the New Testament?
- Week 6 Contemporary challenges to the Bible – Pt 1
- Week 7 Contemporary challenges to the Bible – Pt 2
- Week 8 How to read & interpret the Bible?



RECAPPING WEEK 1

- We learnt some facts about the Bible
- What it is, and what it is not
- We learnt about how we got the Old Testament
- About the additional books in the Old Testament Bible
- We also learnt about the how we got the New Testament
- When the New Testament Cannon was formed
- Whether the Bible is still open to be added to
- Why some books were excluded from the OT and NT

WEEK 2

Is the Bible
Authoritative?

GOD AND REVELATION



We learn facts about God from Scripture!

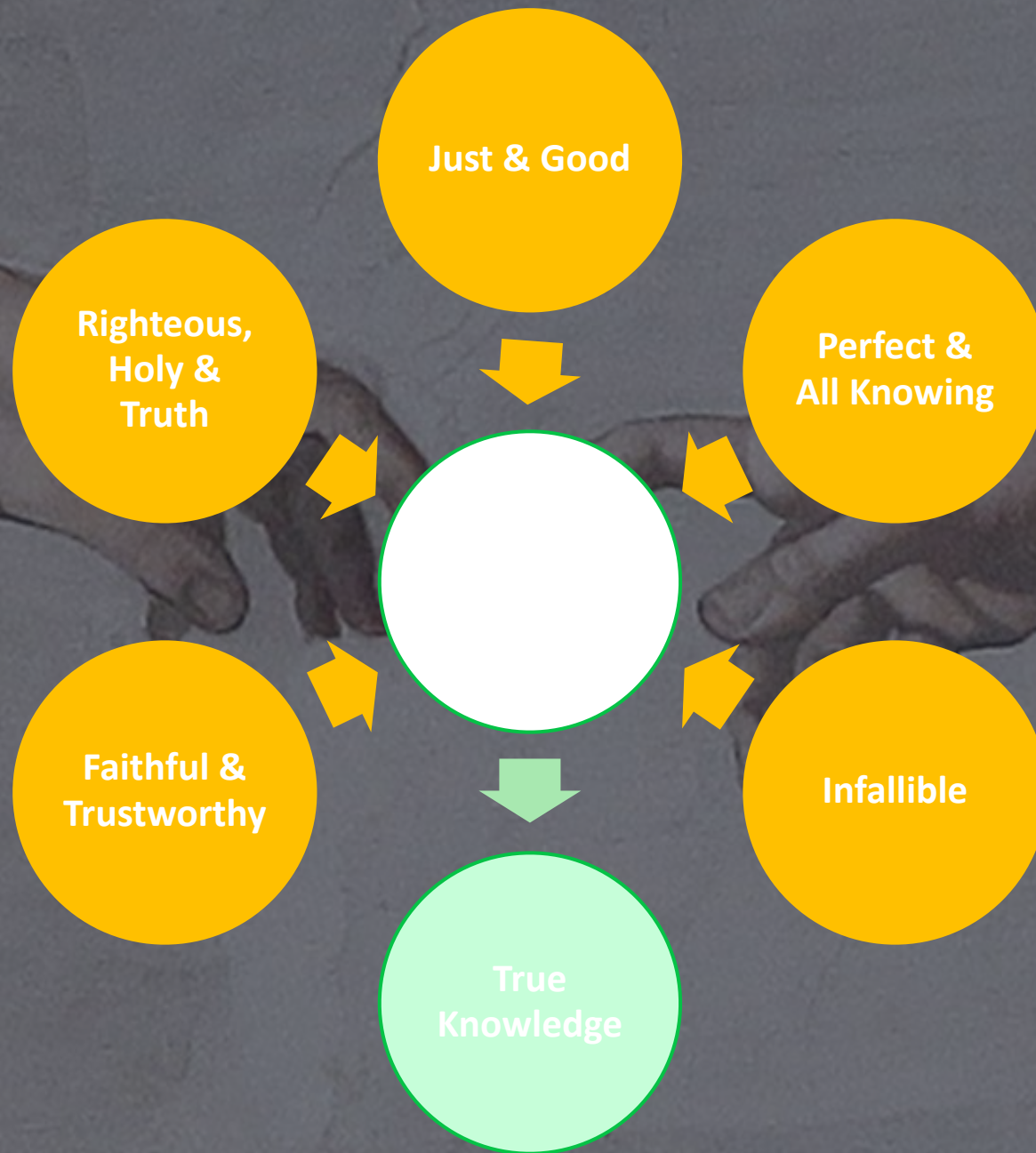
Scripture was God's idea.

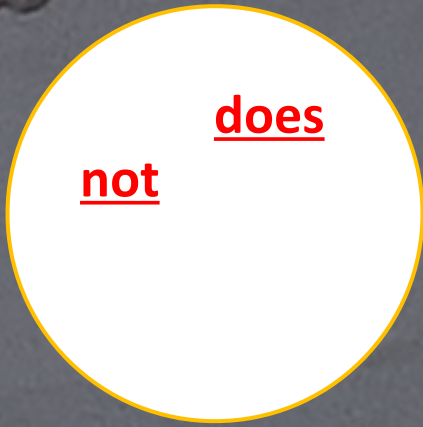
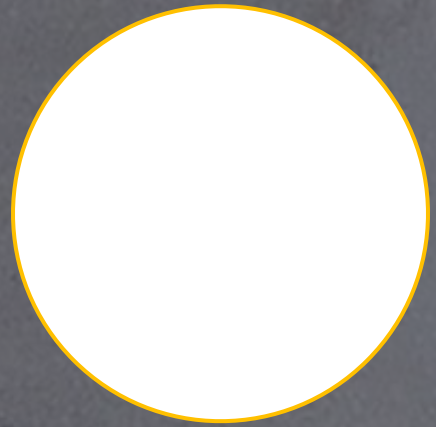
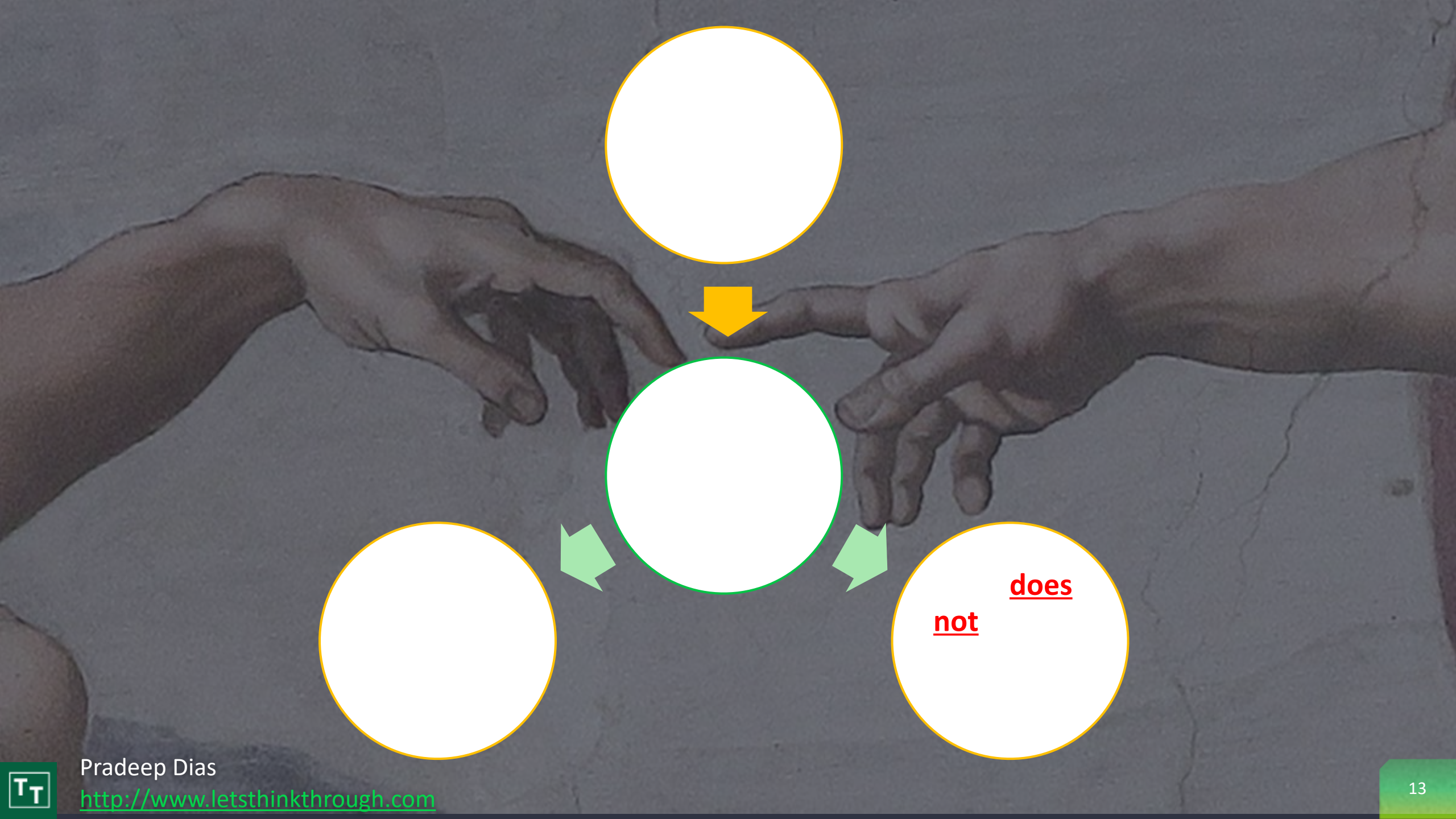
Being God's Word, it will also be a reflection of who He is.

The **Authority, Reliability** and **Trustworthiness** of Scripture is reflected by **The One** who commissioned and enabled the formulation of the Scriptures.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS OUR GOD?

A MERCIFUL TRANSCENDENT IMPECCABLE
L OMNISCIENT GRACIOUS LIGHT FORGIVING
M CREATOR EVERLASTING GOOD PROVIDER HOLY
I G H T Y SELF SUFFICIENT THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD COMPASSIONATE
Eternal JUST PERFECT ALLKNOWING OMNIPRESENT
FAITHFUL REDEEMER
LOVING INFALLIBLE ALL POWERFUL
RIGHTEOUS OMNIPOTENT SELF EXISTENT





not does



Revelation of Knowledge

General
Revelation
(Nature)

Special
Revelation
(Scripture)

Created in the Image of God



Meaningful

For All Generations

In Human Language

- 1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.*
- 2 Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.*
- 3 They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.*
- 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.
God has made a home in the heavens for the sun*

Psalms 19:1-4

GOD CREATED HUMANITY

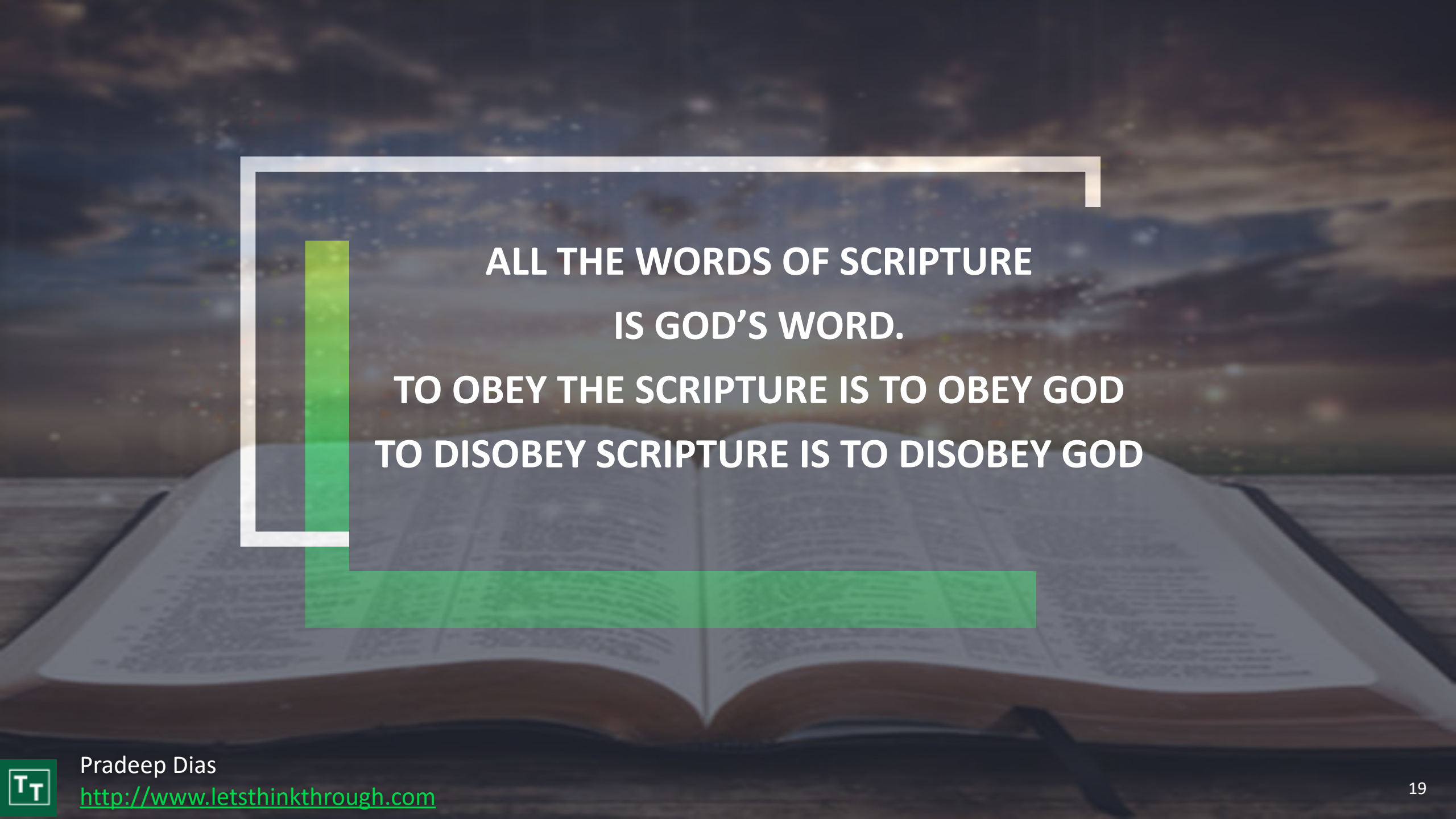
1. RELATIONAL
2. SPIRITUAL
3. RATIONAL
4. MORAL



ALL OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD BREATHED

An open Bible with white pages and black text is placed on a wooden surface. The background is a dramatic night sky with a bright sun or moon low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with stars and colorful nebulae in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The overall mood is spiritual and contemplative.

HOW DO I KNOW SCRIPTURE IS ACTUALLY GOD'S WORD?



**ALL THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE
IS GOD'S WORD.
TO OBEY THE SCRIPTURE IS TO OBEY GOD
TO DISOBEY SCRIPTURE IS TO DISOBEY GOD**

ALL WORDS OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD'S WORDS

“Thus says the Lord” is mentioned 1900 times in the Old Testament.

God's mouthpiece and authors of the OT was the prophets. In the NT apostles

ALL WORDS OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD'S WORDS

I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. 19 I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf. 20 But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die –

Duet 18:18-20

- **To God His Words which were authoritative was to under no condition be compromised.**
- **Such is the protection / correction communicated in the Scriptures**

THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET IS THE WORDS OF GOD

*Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me:
“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth”*

Jer 1:9

You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse

Eze 2:7

This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite

2 Kings 9:36

- **These words were not merely spoken but also written as commanded by God.**

This is what we have as the Old Testament Cannon. The Bible Jesus used.

ALL WORDS OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD'S WORDS

- NT – 2 Tim 3:16 – All Scripture (graphe – 51 times refers to OT) is God breathed.
- NT – 2 Peter 1:21 – not by man's will. Rather holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit
- Matt 19:45 – Jesus affirms the words of Moses is the Words of God
 - Jesus says, it is God who SAID these words.
 - Re-affirms the historicity of the creation (historical Adam and Eve).
- Paul and Peter refers to NT as Scripture (1 Tim 5:18, 2 Peter 3:16)
- 1 Cor 14:37 – Paul calls his words “command of the Lord”

**TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD, WE HAVE TO KNOW
THE WORD. TO KNOW THE WORD WE HAVE TO
STUDY THE WORD.**

**“MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE (WORDS)
AND FOLLOW ME”
JOHN 10:27**

HOW CAN I BE CONVINCED?



Pradeep Dias

<http://www.letsthinkthrough.com>

HOW CAN I BE CONVINCED?

The Witness of the Holy Spirit

We are first convinced this is the Word of God, when we start to read the Scriptures.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

1 Co 2:13–14

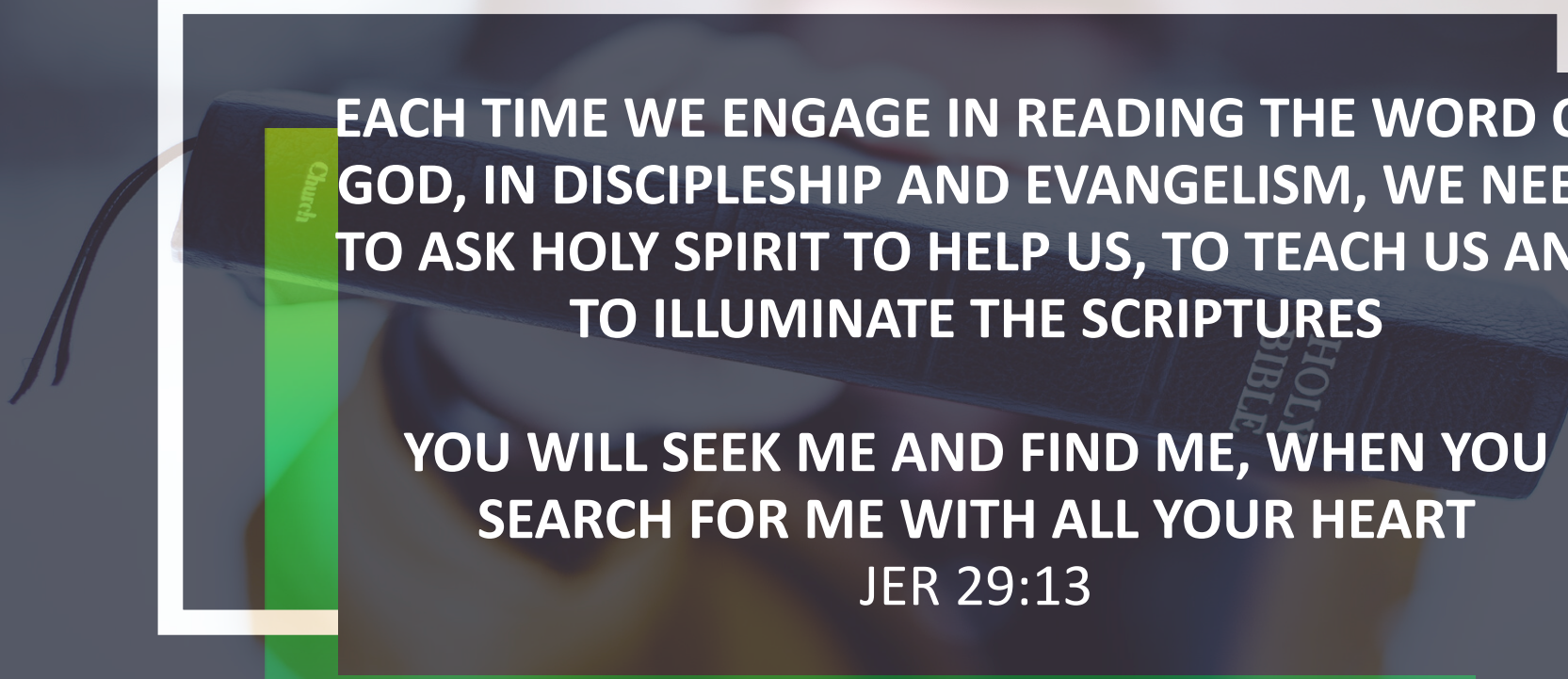
- Ultimately it is the inward work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that let the Scripture come alive in our lives.



**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXTERNAL SOURCES, TO
PROVE THE WORD OF GOD?**

**BE CAREFUL NOT TO PUT HUMAN KNOWLEDGE
OVER GOD.**

**THE LACK OF EVIDENCE IS NOT THE SAME AS
LACK OF TRUTHFULNESS.**



**EACH TIME WE ENGAGE IN READING THE WORD OF
GOD, IN DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELISM, WE NEED
TO ASK HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US, TO TEACH US AND
TO ILLUMINATE THE SCRIPTURES**

**YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME, WHEN YOU
SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART
JER 29:13**

DID GOD DICTATE THE BIBLE?



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DID GOD DICTATE THE BIBLE?

- The Bible was written by human authors, chosen by God, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Inspiration did not involve the author going into a trance or the Spirit taking control of the hand.
 - It was a deep impression, an impulse on the mind. Holy Spirit bringing to remembrance

Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, 21 or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God – 2 Peter 1:21

DID GOD DICTATE THE BIBLE?

Heb 1:1-2 – In many ways God spoke to us through His prophets

- Sometimes God gave word for word (Revelations about the churches)
- Then directly to the author e.g. Moses speaking to God face to face
- Dreams / visions e.g. Daniel, Revelation
- People meditating (David in the fields meditating in Psalms),
- Observation of history (Luke and Acts)
- Eye witness testimony (Gospels)
- Observation of nature (Solomon in Proverbs e.g. ant)

A close-up photograph of a dark wood gavel with a brass band, resting on the pages of an open book. The gavel is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its head on the left and handle extending towards the right. The book's pages are white with some faint text visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

TRUTHFULNESS OF SCRIPTURE

TRUTHFULNESS OF SCRIPTURE

- Since Scripture flows from God and by His nature He is
 - Holy, Perfect, All knowing

“God who never lies” – Titus 1:2,

“It is impossible for God to lie” – Hebrews 6:18

Therefore His Words cannot have untruth or deceit.

TRUTHFULNESS OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus castigates His disciples for not believing in the OT Scripture

“You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”

Luke 24:25-26

“All Scripture is God breathed ...” 2 Timothy 3:16

Therefore disbelieve is to disobey.

ALL WORDS IN SCRIPTURE TRUTHFUL

The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever - Ps 12:6-7

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through - Num 23:19

- Not only is God not like man, His Words are so pure, it is perfectly pure (Ps)
- Compared to man who keeps changing his, unable to keep his words.

SCRIPTURES ARE INFALLIBLE

- The difference between the Bible and others is that, each of the authors were guided by the God through His Spirit; Inspiration
- Inspiration ensures the accurate interpretation of information that can be obtained by man in ordinary ways e.g. geography, culture, history, etc.
- And the output of the authors i.e . the written text is infallible. This means it is without error.
- Since we are made in the image of God we can ascertain some of the truths, but through His Spirit, the Bible has recorded full and true knowledge.
- This is possible because God who is the source of all knowledge is the revealer.

CAN A NEW FACT EVERY CONTRADICT THE BIBLE

- No true fact can ever contradict the Bible.
- Because God is all knowing and possesses all true knowledge.
- So when some expert says the Bible is wrong, we have to be very careful to take man's word over God's.
- It has been proven multiple times where man has been wrong and the Bible has withstood all criticism.
- Where there is silence, where matters are not exhaustively known, where matters of history have disappeared due to time, we cannot compromise.
- We have trust (beyond reasonable doubt).
- Remember where there is perfect knowledge there is no need for trust.

**OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE TO GO DEEPER,
STUDY THOSE HARD PASSAGES THAT ARE
DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW, NOT REJECT OR
ALTER IT BECAUSE WE DON'T AGREE. THERE
IS NO CHOICE OF PICK AND CHOOSE.**

An aerial photograph of a city with a grid of buildings. A large green rectangular area is overlaid on the left side, and a grey rectangular area is overlaid on the right side. The text 'Q&A' is centered in the grey area.

Q&A