

Why Believe in Christianity?

Exploring the Essentials of the Christian Faith

Belief 1: *Why Believe in the Bible?*

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

DRCC Core Belief #1:

The Bible (Old and New Testament) is the **inspired** Word of God. It is perfect for its purpose and its purpose is to reunite us to God as His children through our faith in the LORD Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15). Therefore, we submit our reason and will to the **authority** of Scripture. **All Scripture points to Jesus Christ** (Luke 24:25-27; 44-49; John 5:39-40) who reveals the heart and character of God (John 1:14-18; 14:6-10). The **revelation** of **Jesus Christ** and His church in the New Testament is the inspired fulfillment and final interpretation of all God revealed to Israel in the Old Testament. The Bible is our **ultimate source for truth**. It reveals the divine principles and purposes that guide every genuine Christian community; and it is the basis for teaching, correction and training in righteousness. It guides our relationship with God now and points us to the complete restoration of humanity and creation in eternity.

The four key claims of Scripture for itself:

- **Inspiration** (Scripture is more than a human document, but God-breathed.)
- **Historical** (Scripture records the true acts and genuine communication of God with real people in real space and time events [thus making its historical claims subject to archeological and historical verification]).
- **Revelation** (God has taken the initiative to make Himself known, for we could know Him accurately in no other way. God has given all humanity evidence of Himself in a partial and general way through nature (**Romans 1:19-21**). God has made Himself known personally and specifically through His self-disclosure in Scripture and ultimately in Jesus Christ. Scripture is God-initiated, supernaturally [Holy Spirit] imparted, *universal and unified* [objective] truth. This truth reveals God’s character, and God’s will and redemptive purposes for humanity in Jesus Christ)
- **Authoritative** (As the Word of God, Scripture has authority over us. God’s revealed truth supersedes and judges all human wisdom, traditions, impulses, feelings or judgments [“*Not my will, but Thy will be done.*”]).

1. The Bible (Old and New Testament) is the **inspired** Word of God.

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
All Scripture is God-breathed [*Theo-pneustos*] and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting
and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God
may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy **never had its origin in the human will**, but prophets, though human, **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**
2 Peter 1:19-21

2. It is **perfect for its purpose** and its purpose is to **reunite us to God through our faith in the LORD Jesus Christ** (*2 Timothy 3:15*).
3. Therefore, we submit our reason and will to the **authority** of Scripture.
4. **All Scripture points to Jesus Christ** (*Luke 24:25-27; 44-49; John 5:39-40*) who reveals the heart and character of God (*John 1:14-18; 14:6-10*).

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them **what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.**
Luke 24:25-27

He said to them: "This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them: "This is what is written: **The Messiah** will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.
Luke 24:44-48

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. But **these are the very Scriptures that testify about Me**, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life.
John 5:39-40

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ **Through Him all things** were made; **without Him nothing** was made that has been made. ⁴ **In Him was life**, and [His] life is the light of all mankind.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.
We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'")
Out of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
For the law was given through Moses; but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

John 1:1-4; 14-18

5. The **revelation** of Jesus Christ and His church in the New Testament is the inspired fulfillment and final interpretation of all God revealed to Israel in the Old Testament.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets **at many times and in various ways**, but **in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:29

In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

Romans 9:8

So too, at the present time, there is a remnant chosen by grace.

Romans 11:5

(The local and geographical and visible nation of Israel becomes the world-wide and spiritually discerned people of God, the church of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 1:4-6)

6. The Bible [as God's truth] is **our ultimate source for truth**. It reveals the divine principles and purposes that guide every genuine Christian community; and it is the basis for teaching, correction and training in righteousness.
7. The Bible guides our relationship with God now and points us to the complete restoration of humanity and creation in eternity (Revelation 21:1-7).

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;

it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring Word of God. For:
“All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the LORD endures forever.”
And this is the Word that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:23-25

I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets
and the command given by our LORD and Savior through your apostles.

2 Peter 3:2

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways,”
declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways
and My thoughts than your thoughts.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

so is **My word that goes out from My mouth:**
It will not return to Me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:8-11

Dialogue Time [Note]: