

The Efficacy of Scripture

2 Peter 1:3-4

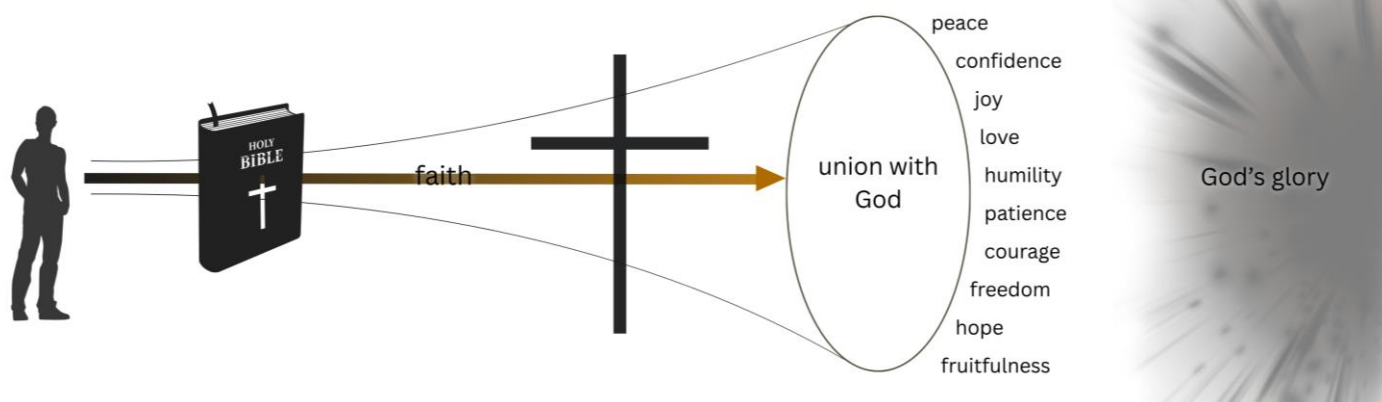
- Scripture is the only book that gives correct answers to life's greatest questions, while accurately reflecting reality.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, originating in the mind of God and communicated to humanity through human language.
- The Bible is not a myth but a historically and textually reliable testimony of God's revelation.
- The many prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled with remarkable precision in the New Testament.
- Because the Bible is written clearly and can be understood by ordinary people.
- Because the Holy Spirit has opened our eyes to understand Scripture. (Unbelief in the Bible is caused not by a lack of evidence, but by humanity's spiritual blindness.)
- Because Scripture is sufficient for salvation and for living a godly life.
- Because Scripture is efficacious.

1 Pet. 1:23 ...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

1 Pet. 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

Ps. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

2 Pet. 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.



I. Scripture Leads Us to Christ

2 Pet. 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

John. 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

God's Promises Concerning Christ in the Old Testament

- **His lineage** (the offspring of the woman, Abraham, Judah, and David) – Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:18; 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12–16; Is. 11:1.
- **His nature** (truly man and truly God) – Is. 7:14; 9:6–7; Mic. 5:2.
- **His offices** (Prophet, Priest, and King) – Deut. 18:15–19; Ps. 110:4; Ps. 2:6–8; 2 Sam. 7:13–16; Zech. 9:9.
- **His birth** (born of a virgin, in Bethlehem) – Is. 7:14; Mic. 5:2.
- **His life** (perfect obedience) – Is. 42:1–4; 50:4–9.
- **His saving work** (the substitutionary sacrifice for sin) – Ps. 22; Is. 52:13–53:12; Zech. 12:10; Dan. 9:26.
- **His resurrection** – Ps. 16:10–11; Is. 53:10–12.
- **His eternal reign** – 2 Sam. 7:13–16; Ps. 2:8–12; Is. 9:6–7; Dan. 7:13–14.
- **Salvation for all nations** – Gen. 12:3; Is. 42:6; 49:6; Zech. 8:20–23.
- **The New Covenant and the nature of new life** – Jer. 31:31–34; Ez. 36:25–27.

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2 Tim. 3:15-17 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness—which lead to a mature, full, and fruitful life—are effective only to the extent that you know Jesus Christ and live in Him.

We study Scripture so that we may know Christ, delight in Him, be filled with Him, submit to Him, and live through Him.

II. Christ Unites Us with God

2 Pet. 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so **that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Ezek. 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jer. 31:33-34 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Eph. 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

Eph. 3:16-17 ...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

2 Cor. 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Scripture speaks...

- **Of the infinite greatness of God's holiness**
Is. 6:1-5; Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8
- **Of the seriousness of human problems**
Gen. 3:1-19; Rom. 3:9-23; Eph. 2:1-3
- **Of the hopeless condition of people apart from Christ**
John 3:18, 36; Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:21
- **Of the greatness of God's plan of salvation**
Gen. 3:15; Is. 53; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:18-20
- **Of God's patience and steadfast commitment to accomplish His plan of salvation**
Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4-5; 2 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 1:1-2
- **Of God's promises concerning Christ**
Gen. 3:15; Gen. 12:3; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Is. 7:14; Is. 9:6-7; Mic. 5:2
- **Of the foreshadowings of Christ**
Gen. 22:1-14; Ex. 12:1-13; Lev. 16; Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7-10
- **Of the faith of those who hoped in Christ before He came**
Heb. 11:13, 39-40; John 8:56; Rom. 4:1-8
- **Of the greatness of God's love revealed in Christ**
John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10

- **Of the power of the grace with which Christ was filled**
John 1:14–17; 2 Cor. 8:9; Tit. 2:11–14
- **Of the beauty and excellence of Christ's character**
Matt. 11:28–30; Phil. 2:5–8; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 2:21–23
- **Of the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice**
Is. 53:4–6; Rom. 3:24–26; Heb. 9:11–15; Heb. 10:10–14
- **Of the immeasurable glory of Christ**
John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:15–20; Heb. 1:1–3; Rev. 5:11–14
- **Of the unshakable hope we have in Christ**
Rom. 5:1–5; Col. 1:27; Tit. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:3–5
- **Of Christ's faithful intercession for us**
Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1–2
- **Of the heart of the gospel of Christ**
Mark 1:14–15; John 3:16–18; 1 Cor. 15:1–4; Rom. 1:16–17
- **Of the fruit of faith in Christ**
John 15:1–8; Gal. 5:22–23; Eph. 2:8–10; Jas. 2:17–18
- **Of the riches of our inheritance with Christ**
Rom. 8:16–17; Eph. 1:11, 18; 1 Pet. 1:3–4
- **Of the joy found in Christ**
John 15:11; Phil. 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:8
- **Of the peace that Christ gives**
John 14:27; John 16:33; Phil. 4:6–7
- **Of the meaning and purpose of life in Christ**
John 10:10; Phil. 1:21; Col. 3:3–4
- **Of our identity and significance in Christ**
Eph. 1:4–6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Pet. 2:9–10
- **Of the strength to endure suffering in Christ**
John 16:33; Rom. 8:35–39; 2 Cor. 12:9–10; Phil. 4:13
- **Of the power to overcome sin in Christ**
Rom. 6:1–14; Rom. 8:1–13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13
- **Of the transformation of our character into the likeness of Christ**
Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:22–23; Col. 3:9–17

Gal. 4:19 My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Christianity is a life focused on knowing Christ, being filled with Christ, and being transformed by Christ.

III. Union with God Leads to Glory

2 Pet. 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of **him who called us to his own glory and excellence**, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

δόξα – a manifestation of light radiance, brightness, splendor, God's excellent power, glory, majesty

ἀρετή, - moral excellence, goodness, valor, virtue, uprightness

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2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of **the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**.

- **Peace** – John 14:27; John 16:33
- **Confidence** – John 8:29; Rom. 8:38–39
- **Joy** – John 15:11; Heb. 12:2
- **Love** – John 13:1; Eph. 5:2
- **Humility** – Matt. 11:29; Phil. 2:5–8
- **Patience** – Is. 53:7; 1 Pet. 2:23; Heb. 12:3
- **Courage** – Luke 9:51; John 18:37
- **Freedom** – John 8:31–32; 2 Cor. 3:17–18
- **Hope** – Rom. 5:1–5; Col. 1:27
- **Fruitfulness** – Is. 53:10–12; John 15:5; Phil. 2:9–11
- **Holiness** – John 8:46; Heb. 7:26
- **Wisdom** – Matt. 13:54; Col. 2:3; 1 Cor. 1:24
- **Gentleness** – Matt. 21:5; 2 Cor. 10:1
- **Compassion** – Matt. 9:36; Mark 1:41
- **Cooperation with God** – John 5:19–20; John 15:1–11
- **Endurance** – Heb. 12:2–3; Phil. 2:8
- **Faithfulness** – Heb. 3:1–2; Rev. 19:11

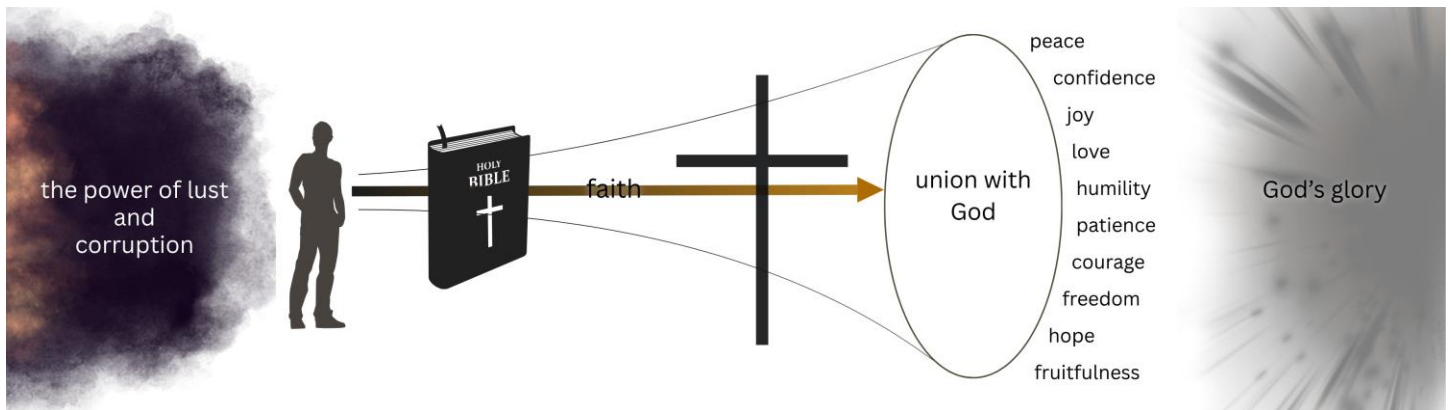
Christianity is Christ living in us and transforming us into His likeness.

2 Cor. 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that **when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

Phil. 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

IV. Life in Christ Frees Us from the Power of Lust



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The only way to overcome sin is to be captivated by Christ, whom we come to know through Scripture.

2 Tim. 3:15-17 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God[a] may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

Practical power of Scripture

- Scripture leads us to Christ.
- Scripture reveals the gospel of Jesus Christ, uniting us to Him and giving us a new, heavenly nature.
- Scripture reveals the glory of Christ, transforming us into His likeness.
- Life in Christ sets us free from the power of sinful desires.

The purpose for which you read the Bible determines how you read it and how effective it will be in transforming your life.