

CAN WE STILL TRUST THE BIBLE?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

What convinced me the Bible is reliable?

Reason 1: There are thousands of ancient copies of the New Testament with incredible unity.

Reason 2: There were tons of eyewitnesses to deny or confirm the truth of the Bible.

Luke 1:1-3_a (NIV) “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you ...”

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV) “For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

Reason 3: Multiple people were involved in the creation of the New Testament.

WHAT WE MISS OUT ON IF WE DON'T READ OUR BIBLES

1. We miss out on our identity in Christ.

John 1:12 (NIV) “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

2. We miss out on the action.

John 14:12 (NIV) “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

The lame walk!

Acts 3:6-7 (NIV) “Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.’

The blind see!

Acts 9:17-18 (NIV) “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so

that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized ..."

Signs and wonders followed the Gospel as it went throughout the world!

Romans 15:18-19_a (NIV) "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God."

3. We miss out on wisdom.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV) "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

The Bible ...

Keeps you pure (Psalm 119:9).
Helps you to not sin (Psalm 119:11).
Brings calmness (Psalm 119:23).
Brings delight (Psalm 119:24).
Prevents selfishness (Psalm 119:35-36).
Helps you withstand pain (Psalm 119:61).
Produces endurance (Psalm 119:92).
Preserves life (Psalm 119:93).
Provides comfort (Psalm 119:95).
Gives wisdom (Psalm 119:98).
Brings joy (Psalm 119:111).
Gives understanding to your mind (Psalm 144).
Brings peace (Psalm 119:165).

4. We miss out on encouragement.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) "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."