

**Foundations of Faith**  
*The Bible*

- **Psalm 138:2** - God's Word magnified above His name
  - Wherever God's Word is honoured, God will honour His Word.
- **Psalm 1:1-2** - Blessed is the man who delights in and meditates on God's Word
- **Hebrews 1:1-2a** - God has spoken in various ways - ultimately through His Son

What did Satan say to Eve in Genesis 3:1? What does this teach us about the importance of knowing God's Word, applying His Word, and the power it has in our lives?

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**INSPIRATION**

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Inspired = God breathed

- The Greek word *theopneustos* combines the word for "God" (*theos*) and the word for "breath" or "spirit" (*pneustos*).

"God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind with the words of their original writings." (Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*)

- Several features of the definition are worth emphasizing:
  - (1) God superintended but did not dictate the material.
  - (2) He used human authors and their own individual styles, they were not robots, but active writers.
  - (3) Nevertheless, the product was, in its original manuscripts, without error.
- **2 Peter 1:20-21** - "moved" = \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 27:15-17)
- The fact that we are convinced that the words of Scripture are the words of God *as we are reading the Bible* means that the words of Scripture are \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is inspiration so important to the authority of Scripture?

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How does your view of inspiration influence your personal reading of Scripture?

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**INERRANCY** - The Bible tells the truth

- "Inerrancy...means that when all the facts are known in the Bible, in the original autographs, will prove itself to be without error in all matters that it covers, including theology, history, science, and all other disciplines of knowledge." (Don Stewart, *What Everyone Needs to Know about The Bible*)

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**INFALLIBILITY** - incapable of making mistakes or being wrong.

- **Acts 1:3**
- **Psalms 19:7**

**CANON** - the collection of books which passed a test of authenticity and authority.

- It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a book which determines its canonicity.
- Test for inspired writings:
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Was the book written or accepted by a prophet/apostle of God?
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Was the book accepted by the church at large?
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Does the book tell the truth about God, man, or salvation?
  - \_\_\_\_\_: The early church fathers believed that the “inspired” Scripture was “living and active” (Heb 4:12).

Why should we demand the historical reliability of the New Testament?

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**WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE BIBLE?**

- Bible Study is Essential for \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Peter 2:2**
    - A \_\_\_\_\_
    - A \_\_\_\_\_
    - A \_\_\_\_\_
- Bible Study is Essential for \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Hebrews 5:11-14**
- Bible Study is Essential for \_\_\_\_\_
  - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
    - All Scripture is Profitable for:
      - \_\_\_\_\_
      - \_\_\_\_\_
      - \_\_\_\_\_
      - \_\_\_\_\_
- As you may know and have seen in the Calvary Distinctives, we place a high priority on the Word of God
  - Simply read the Word and explain it simply
    - **1 Timothy 4:13**
    - **Colossians 4:15-16**
    - **Nehemiah 8:8**
    - **Isaiah 55:10-11**
- What does teaching the Word systematically do?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
    - **Acts 20:27**
    - **2 Timothy 3:16**

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▪ **Psalm 138:2**

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- What are the dangers/problems associated with neglecting to teach the whole Word?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

- What is the importance of 1 Corinthians 2:14 in relation to the Holy Spirit?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• **Isaiah 28:10**

- Precept Upon Precept
- Line Upon Line
- Here a Little and There a Little
  - Focus on Literary Style
    - What is the genre of the book?
    - What is the style of the passage?
    - What was this like for the original audience?
  - Read it AS A BOOK.
    - Words have meaning. Read, observe, interpret accordingly.
  - ASK GOD FOR HELP!
    - **Psalm 119:18**
  - Application is key - The point of Bible reading is that we might LIVE IT.
    - **Psalm 119:9-16**
    - **James 1:22**
    - **Matthew 7:24-27**

**BOOKS FOR FURTHER READING**

- **I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist** by Norman Geisler
- **Living by the Book** by Howard Hendricks
- **What Everyone Needs to Know About the Bible** by Don Stewart
- **Know What You Believe** by Paul Little
- **Basic Theology** by Charles Ryrie
- **From God to Us** by Norman Geisler

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- Do you think you would pay more attention if God spoke to you from heaven or through the voice of a living prophet than if he spoke to you from the written words of Scripture? Would you believe or obey such words more readily than you do Scripture?
- Do you think your present level of response to the written words of Scripture is an appropriate one? What positive steps can you take to make your attitude toward Scripture more like the kind of attitude God wants you to have?

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- What would the impact be of denying the faithfulness and truthfulness of the Bible?
  - The reliability of the Bible?
- Why is it important to your Christian life to know which writings are God's words and which are not?
- How would your relationship with God be different if you had to look for his words that were scattered among all the writings of Christians throughout church history? How would your Christian life be different if God's words were contained not only in the Bible but also in the official declarations of the church throughout history?
- Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, among others, have claimed present-day revelations from God that they count equal to the Bible in authority. What reasons can you give to indicate the falsity of those claims?
- How would you answer an unbeliever who asks why you believe the Bible is the Word of God? What would you encourage that person to do to find out for him- or herself?
- How would you respond to someone who says the Bible is full of contradictions?
- Are you willing to put into practice whatever command or principle you see in Scripture? Why or why not?

**Foundations of Faith**  
**The Bible Questions**

**Chapters from Calvary Distinctives**

- The Priority of the Word
- Striking the Balance

**Questions**

*The Priority of the Word*

1. Explain the importance of declaring the whole counsel of God.

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2. Describe the value of teaching straight through the Bible.

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3. What style of teaching is most prevalent in Calvary Chapel and why?

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4. Why is this style advantageous when dealing with difficult issues?

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5. Give a brief definition of expositional preaching.

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6. What is the best commentary on the Bible?

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7. Why is time necessary in order to develop an appetite for the Word of God?

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**Foundations of Faith**  
**The Bible Questions**

8. What results can be expected when the Word is planted in hearts?

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9. Why is God's promise to Daniel in Daniel 12:3, an encouragement as we wait for growth and development??

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*Striking the Balance*

1. Why must we seek to avoid dividing God's people over non-essential issues?

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2. What happens when we start taking hardline positions on non-foundational controversial issues?

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3. "In the essential doctrines of the faith, we must \_\_\_\_\_"

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4. What is our Biblical example for the gift of tongues?

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5. Why do we avoid emphasizing tongues as the primary manifestation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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**Foundations of Faith**  
**The Bible Questions**

6. Explain the balanced approach Calvary Chapel takes concerning Calvinism.

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7. Why has God given us the capacity of choice?

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8. How can we experience God's security?

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9. The scripture teaches both the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.

10. In what way can we be sure the people are getting a well-balanced spiritual diet?

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