

Is The Bible True?

ONE: THE HIDDEN TRUTH

SESSION TWO: NEW SIGHT

OBJECTIVES

- 1. The Bible's contents were received by revelation.**
- 2. The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. The Bible is authenticated by its effects.**
- 4. The Bible is able to produce faith.**

THREE: SLIDING HEAD FIRST



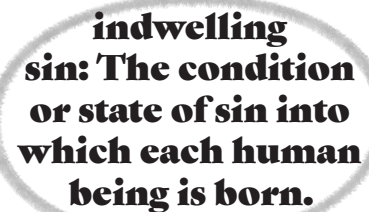
Is The Bible True?

SESSION TWO: NEW SIGHT

Before we dive in, we want you to know that this study is derived from J.I. Packer's book *A Quest for Godliness*. Should you desire further study, his book largely helped to unpack our content in this session.

As we've reviewed, the Bible is not naturally conceived as true in the minds and hearts of man due to the **indwelling sin** we received as inheritance from Adam. Our eyes and ears are perverted to the truth of the Gospel from birth. However, through the work of the Holy Spirit a miracle takes place, where God's words and thoughts begin taking root in the depths of our hearts.

In our session, we are going to unpack the avenues by which the Holy Spirit changes our perspective of scripture and introduces our minds to God's. No amount of rational evidence, intellectual discussion or personal testimony can take the place of the Spirit's work to open our eyes, hearts and minds to the validity of the Bible.



**indwelling
sin: The condition
or state of sin into
which each human
being is born.**

Is The Bible True?

The Giving of Revelation

How would you define the word “revelation”?

The word “revelation” is used to denote “any immediate informative communication from God, disclosing things which could not otherwise have been known.” (Packer, 85). We believe that the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, is a compilation of recorded revelations from God to men for the purpose of instruction. In the Old Testament, these revelations were revealed through miracles, signs and wonders from God — often in hearing His audible voice. Whereas in the New Testament, these men, referred to as apostles, received revelation from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Peter 1:21 and John 21:24-25. Write down your observations of the prophets through these passages below.

An important aspect to grasp as it comes to these revelations is how they were received and still are received today. These messages given to men from all generations were only able to be taken hold of through faith in the source of the message. Read of how Packer describes this:

“ Adam, Abraham, Moses, and all the others to whom the word of God came did not need to ask what was the source of the message; they knew — that is, they found themselves sure and unable to doubt — that it was from God, and acted accordingly. Thus by faith they obtained their good report.” (Packer, 2022, p.85).

The Inspiration of Scripture

In your own words, how do describe scripture being “inspired”?

Inspiration, as defined by John Owen, is “the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit, whereby revelations are given, received and transmitted.” (Packer, 2022, p.86). Even as much as a single word written apart from the Holy Spirit would have invalidated the integrity of Scripture (1 Cor. 1:17). However, we believe that every aspect of it’s authorship was ordained and set perfectly in place by God himself. Packer (2022) quotes Owen saying,

“As a man tunes the strings of an instrument, that it may in a due manner receive the impressions of his finger, and give out the sounds he intends... [God] himself acted their faculties, making use of them to express his words, not their own conception.” (p.86)

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 and write down some observations. What happens if we try understanding scripture apart from the Holy Spirit?

Authentication of Scripture

The authenticity of the Word can be a large hurdle for many of us to overcome in our faith. However, we can look to clear evidence to validate its truth. Similar to the way a baseball leaves a bruise after you’re hit by a pitch, we are going to look at three ways God’s Word leaves an imprint on your life.

Is The Bible True?

Permanent Quality of Light

Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a _____ unto my feet
and
a _____ for my path.”

How has scripture provided illumination in your life?

Produces Spiritual Effects

Acts 20:32 – “Now I commit you to God and to
_____ of his grace, which can _____
and give you _____ among all those who are
sanctified.”

The Word as Personal

Summarize 2 Peter 1:16-18:

Establishment of Faith in Scripture

Quite simply, we have faith in scripture due to scripture giving birth to faith in us. Scripture itself, by the work of the Holy Spirit, produces convincing, sure and illuminating faith that validates the work of the Gospel.

Write out some key phrases in Ephesians 1:17-18:

The internal testimony of the Holy Spirit is not an inward voice revealing facts otherwise unknown or unknowable, nor is it an unreasoning conviction, objectively groundless, coming to us out of the blue;

it is, rather, an activity of inward illumination, whereby a man's natural spiritual blindness is removed, the veil is taken from the eyes of his heart, his pride and prejudice alike are broken down, and he is given both an understanding and a taste of spiritual realities.” (Packer, 2022, p.92).