

## Facts of the Faith (7)

### The Bible--

II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:20, 21, Hebrews 4:12

Intro—What I hold in my hand is.....

Ta bibla—Latin—the writings of God.

Scripture—Latin—the sayings of God.

#### I. The Bible is Authentic.

**II Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Authentic--not false or copied; genuine; real

Inspired—Breathed out by God.

**Inspiration:** “Christianity is as credible as its foundation which is the immutable rock of Holy Scripture. But this book is no natural book, for it claims to be a divine revelation, penned by human authors. As such, the Bible has dual authorship, written by men in their own language, yet the process was supernaturally guided by the Holy Spirit so that both words and messages are without error or mistake. ”

**Quote:** *We would expect that if God wrote a book, His truthfulness would demand that He claim to be its author.”*

**Question:** Why would God produce a less than perfect book to carry a perfect message?

**It's better than:**

- Better than the works of Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Robert Frost, in their literary genius.
- Better than Homer's Iliad, the writings of Plato, and Aristotle.

#### Better in terms of:

##### A) What it contains.

It contains God's message to mankind.

**Revelation**—God gives us knowledge about Himself which we could not otherwise know.

**Fact:** Over 3,000 times in Scripture the authors claim that their message is from God. Expressions like, “Thus saith the LORD” appear approximately 500 times in the Pentateuch and over 1,200 times in the writings of the prophets.

**Quote:** *There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent us from falling into error: first, the volume to the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of creation, which expresses His power.”*—Sir Francis Bacon, 15<sup>th</sup> century scientist credited with developing the Scientific method.

##### B) The Way it was collected.

OT--Written from 1,400-400 BC;

NT—Written and completed in the first century. A.D. 100./ 200 Most reliable and published document from the ancient world.—Best selling book—2.5-6 billion copies sold.

At least 40 authors from various walks of life/ 3 different languages on 2 different continents/2,000 miles between locations—Ezekiel wrote in Babylon which is some 560 miles east of Jerusalem while Paul recorded his

final letter in prison in Rome, roughly 1450 miles west of Jerusalem/ 66 books.

**Statement:** It does not make sense for the bible to be so organized when one could argue that it was collected in an un-organized fashion.

Clearly it was a work of God!

## II. The Bible is Authoritative.

**II Peter 1:20, 21** “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**Statement:** The bible stands alone as the sole authority for the life of man and the revelation of God. It alone will stand the test of time as proven by Jesus Christ when He said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means, pass away.”—**Matthew 24:35**

**Authoritative**--Of acknowledged accuracy or excellence; highly reliable.

**Authoritative because of:**

### A) God's Nature

**Quote:** *Man could not have written the bible if given the ability, and man would not have written the bible if given the opportunity.*

**Statement:** Scripture is a not a result of man, but a result of God.

**Two facts:** God does not change (Malachi 3), and God cannot lie (Hebrews 6, Titus 1:2).

**Truth:** If God is perfect, then His Word must be perfect. If His word was imperfect or untruthful, it would imply that we serve and worship a God who is imperfect and untruthful.

**Two words I want you to learn and memorize:**

- a. Inerrant—without error.
- b. Infallible—incapable of error.

### B) The Test of Time.

**Visual:** Old Bible from Grandma.—1830's

**On April 10, 2008** American Idol Top 8—“Shout to the Lord” message of the bible was proclaimed nationwide!!!!

**Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is pure (tested, refined); He is shield to those who put their trust in Him.” **Psalms 119:160** “The entirety of Your word is truth....” **John 17:17** “Your word is truth.”

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, by My words will by no means pass away.”

**Two questions:**

#### a. Is the bible still relevant today?

It will always be relevant because God knows man's heart, and the word of God is aimed directly at the heart of men and women!!!!

#### b. Is the bible a good book full of errors?

Some have stated: The Bible must be imperfect because it was written by imperfect men.

**Question:** If the bible contains one error how can any of it be trusted?

**Quote:** *Either the bible is the Word of God (and it must be accepted as from God) or it is the greatest forgery ever printed.*

These alleged errors in the bible never appear in a location where there is a major Christian

truth at stake. (Eg. Fall of Man, Salvation by Faith, Jesus only way to God, etc.)

### **Apologetics: Page 100**

#### **Two other examples of support:**

**A)** The support of history.

Israel Trip—real places.

**B)** The support of archeology.

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**Fact:** Dead Sea Scrolls (1947 AD) 233 whole or fragmentary copies of every book in the Old Testament.

**Quote:** *Archaeology has demonstrated time and time again that the authors of the bible were accurate in their recording of history.*

### **III. The Bible is Animated.**

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**Animated-** full of life, action, or spirit; lively; vigorous.

#### **Three examples of that truth:**

**A) The Bible is productive.**

**Elmer Towns:** Convicting, convincing, and converting.—Many have picked it up.....and as a result their lives were changed!!!!

**Isaiah 55:11** “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please.”

**Statement:** You will find everything you need for life in the pages of Scripture!!!! The Holy Scriptures of God will guide you for all of life and then eternity!!!

**B) The Bible is powerful.**

Powerful enough to teach the sinner that He is in need of a Savior/ Christian how to live.

**Story: Billy Graham:** God uses it to supernaturally pierce the human heart!

**Story:** People have started reading the bible and found themselves drawn to its message.

**Closing Story:** My mom many nights when I would get home from being out would be on the coach quietly reading the bible.

**C) The Bible is penetrating.**

**Romans 10:17** “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. The bible penetrates our mind, heart, and soul.

**Personal testimony:** I have studied these Scriptures more in the past 5 years than any other time in my life and they have changed my life and have proven to be a cohesive collection of God inspired books that contain no errors and offer spiritual help and insight that I have desperately needed.