

# The Next Seven

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## Essential Doctrines of the Faith - Part One

### 1 The Bible is the Inspired Word of God

*Reading: 2 Timothy 3:15-16; Matthew 4:1-4; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 (v13);  
2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Samuel 23:2*

### 2 The Bible is Without Error and Endures Forever

*Reading: Psalm 12:6-7; 19:7; 119:89, 144, 152, 160; Isaiah 40:6-8; Matthew  
5:17-18; 24:35; John 10:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25*

### 3 The Authority of Holy Scripture

*Reading: Matthew 7:28-29; Mark 8:38; John 12:47-48; Matthew 19:4-6; Luke  
24:25-27, 44; 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (Cf. Titus 2:15)*

### 4 Scripture Stands in Authority Over the Traditions of Men

*Reading: Matthew 15:1-14; Colossians 2:1-10 (v8)*

### 5 Beware of Supposed Extra-Biblical Revelation

*Reading: Isaiah 8:19-20; Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 John 4:1-6;  
Revelation 22:18-19*

### 6 Pursuing the Word of God - Part One

*Reading: Psalm 119:1-88*

### 7 Pursuing the Word of God - Part Two

*Reading: Psalm 119:89-176*

# Essential Doctrines of the Faith – Part One

## Lesson 11

### Overview

Any discussion of the essential doctrines comprising the Christian faith must begin with the foundational conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Every teaching of the church emanates from the pages of Holy Scripture, thus the foundation of the faith consists of a deep reverence for the written Word of God.

The orthodox position of the authentic church on this issue can be summarized in the following statement:

*The Bible is the verbally inspired, eternal, inerrant, infallible Word of God. As such it is the sole authority for all doctrine and truth, and is to be approached reverently with the highest respect. The inspiration and authority of the Word of God extends equally to each book within the canon of Scripture.*

There are five main pillars that undergird the conviction expressed in this statement on the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture. They are: *internal testimony; internal harmony; predictive prophesy; observational science; and archaeology.*

As to its internal testimony, the Bible clearly claims to be the Word of God. As stated in 2 Timothy 3:16, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*”

The phrase “inspiration of God” literally means *God-breathed*. The Greek language here places the emphasis upon Scripture originating with God. God breathed out his word as he gave it to the human authors. Each word of the original manuscripts first came from God and then through men as they proceeded to pen those words down.

In this regard the Bible mirrors the person of Christ as it is both human and divine. Jesus is God incarnate—truly God and truly man in one person. Likewise, the written word is fully divine (each word proceeding from the Lord himself) yet colored by human experience and authorship.

It should be noted that literally hundreds of times the Bible claims to be quoting the Lord directly. Thus, through the overseeing work of the Holy Spirit his word was faithfully communicated in written form.

Of course, if the Bible is inspired by God we would expect the 66 books included in the canon of Scripture to possess an *internal harmony*. In fact, this is exactly what we find in the books of the Bible—in spite of the fact that the content of Scripture is comprised by some 40 human authors writing over the span of some 1600 years or so.

How can one explain the harmony of the Bible in light of this reality? It is as though only one author wrote all 66 books! In fact, that is exactly the explanation. God is the author of every word contained in Holy Scripture. Scripture is a record of his story with a glimpse into eternity past, a faithful record of redemptive history through the present, and a picture of what lies ahead in eternal ages yet to come.

Another pillar of strength that undergirds the church’s conviction the Bible is the inspired Word of God lies in the subject of *predictive prophecy*. Approximately 40 percent of the Bible consists of the detailed prophecy of future events. A

number of these prophecies are already fulfilled in history with many more yet to be fulfilled.

Fulfilled prophecy confirms the inspiration of Scripture in a powerful way. *Who but God could tell the future with 100 percent accuracy in many cases hundreds of years before those events ever transpired?* Indeed, fulfilled prophecy confirms the Bible is the Word of God!

The next pillar undergirding the inspiration of Scripture is what we refer to as *observational science*. Everything mankind knows about the real world actually confirms the Bible over and over again. Of course, if the Bible is inspired by the Creator of the earth and the universe we should expect to find it is actually true to the way things are. In fact, this is exactly the case!

One example of how observational science confirms the Bible is found in modern medicine. Doctors now know what the Bible said long ago: *the life of the flesh is in the blood*. Blood work is essential to proper medical treatment today because it reveals what is going on in one's body!

Hundreds of other examples can be cited to illustrate how the Bible is always true to the way things are. The more we learn about our world from observational science the more we discover just how true the Scriptures are. Of course, if the Bible is the inspired Word of God this is exactly what we would expect to find.

The final pillar undergirding the inspiration of the Bible is the field of *archaeology*. The Bible documents real people, places, and events. It contains NO myths! The advent of Archaeology over the past 200 years or so has served to once again confirm the Bible by verifying over and over the past existence of the people, places, and events referred to in Scripture.

Not one artifact or piece of information gathered by archaeologists has served to controvert even a single detail of Scripture. On the contrary, as one gentleman concluded from the tens of thousands of “finds” over the past 200 years—“*the Bible is true after all!*”

An inspired Bible—containing no errors in the history recorded, the principles stated, and the truth set forth—speaks with a final authority. We must settle questions of every sort by what saith the Lord in his written word. No human tradition, nor any other supposed revelation from God, can supersede the record of God’s settled word.

This is especially urgent in matters related to salvation. The Bible stands alone with the message of God’s love for mankind and the record of his redemptive work for us in the person of his Son—the Lord Jesus Christ. All men everywhere would do well to receive the record God gives of his only begotten Son in the pages of Holy Scripture. Salvation depends upon it!

The Apostle Peter said it this way, “*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you*” (1 Peter 1:25). Today the authentic church is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Word of God is carried to the nations. God expects all to receive his word and believe upon his Son. Those who turn away in unbelief will be lost.

Please search your own heart and turn to the Lord in true repentance and faith. All those who do so will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

### **Key Passage this Week**

- Psalm 119

### **Key Verses**

- Psalm 119:81-112

## Activity

Hundreds of times the Bible says, “*The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord,*” or similar statements. Find seven examples from different books of the Bible that quote God directly.

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## Digging Deeper

For those students who desire additional reading on the subject of this lesson here are a few suggestions:

### **Jesus Christ on the Infallibility of Scripture**

<https://answersingenesis.org/jesus-christ/on-the-infallibility-of-scripture/>

### **Go to the Ant**

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2016/08/31/Go-to-the-Ant.aspx#Article>

### **The Inspiration of the Bible—Definition, Extent, Proof**

[https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/torrey\\_ra/fundamentals/20.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/torrey_ra/fundamentals/20.cfm)

Family Discussion/Devotion

# Essential Doctrines of the Faith

## Part One

### **Suggested Reading: Psalm 119.**

What is the meaning of the phrase “*verbal inspiration*” as it relates to the Bible?

What is Biblical inerrancy?

What do we mean when reference is made to the “authority of Scripture?”

T or F When tradition contradicts the Bible we must change the Bible to fit our tradition.

T or F Extra-biblical revelation always takes authority over the Scriptures.

T or F We must allow modern science to correct the history of the Bible by inserting millions of years into the text of Scripture.

T or F The Bible always stands in authority over the words of men.

T or F The inspiration and authority of the Word of God extends equally to all the books within the canon of Scripture.

T or F The history of creation in the book of Genesis is not authoritative and needs to be understood in light of the words of modern men.

T or F The authoritative Word of God records history that documents a global, world-wide flood that destroyed the entire earth.