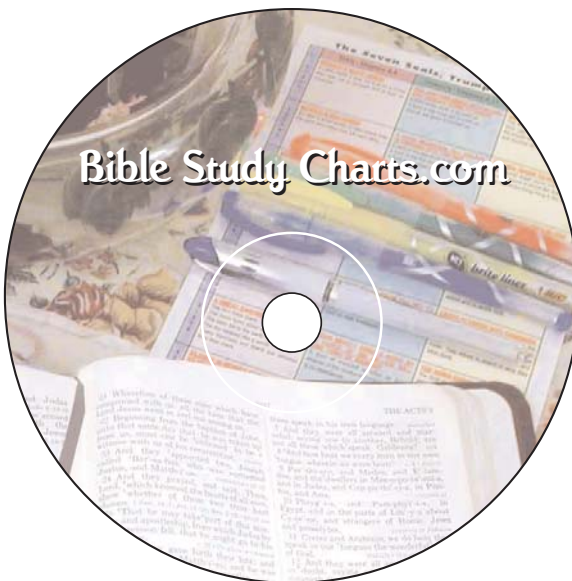


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The Bible – The Word of God

I. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible claims to be the inspired word of God. By “inspiration” we mean the Holy Spirit exerted His supernatural influence upon the the writers of the Bible.

1. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21)
2. Man is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit to write the Bible.
3. Results: the infallible Word of God.

Therefore the Bible is free from error and absolutely trustworthy (Ps. 119: 89), (Matt. 24:35).

II. THE BIBLE IS A SPIRITUAL BOOK

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

1. The Bible came from the infinite to the finite—from the unlimited, all powerful God to limited man.
2. You cannot understand the Bible as you would understand the writings of great philosophers.
3. If the Bible could be understood by natural man, it would be a natural book, and could not be the Word of God.
4. You must be born of the Spirit before you can receive its teachings. (John 3:6) and filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

Always approach the Bible praying that the Spirit will be your teacher and will guide you to a better understanding of His Holy Word, or it will remain a difficult, closed book.

III. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF ONENESS

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:21

The unity of the Bible is a miracle. It is a library of 66 books, written by over 35 different authors, in a period of approximately 1,500 years.

1. Its authors represent a cross section a humanity, educated and uneducated, including kings, fishermen, public officials, farmers, teachers and physicians.

III. THE BOOK OF ONENESS CONTINUED

2. Its subjects include religion, history, law, science, poetry, drama, biography and prophecy.
3. Its various parts are as harmoniously united as the parts that make up the human body.

For 35 authors, with such various backgrounds, to write on so many subjects, over a period of approximately 1,500 years, in absolute harmony, is a mathematical impossibility. It could not happen. The only adequate explanation is "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

IV. THE BIBLE IS QUICK AND POWERFUL

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

1. The Bible has a dividing power. The Bible will separate man from sin (Psalm 119:11) or sin will separate man from the Bible (Isaiah 59:2).
2. The Bible has a reflecting power (James 1 22-25).
3. The Bible has a cleansing power (Eph. 5:26). David prayed that God would wash him from iniquity and cleanse him from sin (Ps. 51:2).
4. The Bible has reproductive power (1 Peter 1:23). We are children of God because we have been born into the family of God by the incorruptible seed of God. This is the new birth (John 3:1-7).
5. The Bible has a nourishing power (1 Peter 2:2). The Bible is spiritual food for the soul. No Christian can remain strong in the Lord and not study the Word of God.

V. THE BIBLE COMMANDS THE BELIEVER TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

"Study to show thyself approved of God" is a command. As you study the Bible, you will discover that it does not just contain the Word of God, it IS the word of God.

As you study the Bible, ask yourself these questions:

1. Who is speaking: God, a demon, an angel or a man?
2. To whom is he speaking: to the nation Israel, to the Gentiles, to the church, to men in general or to some individual man or being?
3. How can this Scripture be applied to my own life to make me a better Christian?