

Week 3 Pillars
Ten Truths To Build Your Life On
THE BIBLE

The Bible:

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Key Points:

1. The Bible Is Without Error

God is a God of truth. God is both all-knowing and all-good. He is free from all ignorance and all deceit. He never lies; he is completely reliable in all that he says and does (cf. Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Isa. 45:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). Because the Bible is the Word of such a God, we affirm that the Bible is wholly true and without error. It can be trusted in all that it teaches. The basis for our confidence in the truthfulness of the Scriptures lies supremely in the authority of Jesus himself.

2. The Bible Is Complete

When we speak of the Bible as “the complete revelation of [God’s] will for salvation” we are referring to what has traditionally been called the “sufficiency” of Scripture. God has spoken all we need to know for Christian faith and life. This understanding flows from the Reformers’ formal principle of sola Scriptura (Scripture alone). Since Scripture alone is our ultimate authority of truth, all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture.

3. The Bible Is Authoritative

A third quality of the Bible as the Word of God, and closely related to its sufficiency, is its authority over us. We affirm that the Scriptures provide “the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged.” God’s authority is mediated to us through his Word.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

- 1. How valuable is the Word of God to you personally? If you miss a day or two in the Word, how do you feel? In what way do you think it is affecting your spiritual life?**
- 2. As a child, how would you respond when someone would read the Bible? Did you like it? Did you understand it? Did you find it very boring?**

Ponderings:

- 3. What does it mean that God's Word is "living"? Active? That it penetrates?**
- 4. When the author of Hebrews uses the term "Word of God", what is he referring to?**
- 5. What does it mean when the Word of God is compared to a two-edged sword? (Eph. 6:17) In what way does the Word cut in relationship to our lives?**
- 6. How does God's Word impact our minds, especially when we are experiencing fear?**

Promptings:

- 7. What evidence do you have that the Word of God is living and active in your life?**
- 8. When have you used the Word of God as a sword in your life?**
- 9. How will a Gospel focus affect our current journey? How can the Word of God change our life and outlook? In what practical ways can we focus on Scripture and not the secondary issues?**