

# How Do We Know the Bible Is the Word of God?

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## Introduction

Our presentation of “Why I Believe the Bible Is God’s Word” begins with the internal foundation of our faith and then slowly builds the whole picture.

### I. The Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit ([Lk. 24:32](#); [John 16:13-14](#))

Our assurance that the Bible is God’s Word begins with an inner conviction that what we are reading is God’s Word. The Bible authenticates itself as you read it with an open mind and heart. This is the work of the Holy Spirit who bears witness to the Word. This subjective witness is not sufficient in and of itself to “prove” the inspiration of the Bible. Yet, without it, the Bibles would never be received as inspired. It is something that the Bible tells us will happen if we read it. This is the position of historic Christianity.

### The Westminster Confession of Faith

“Our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the word in our hearts.” (I, V)

### The Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 4** How doth it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?

**A.** “The Spirit of God, bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man is alone able to persuade it that they are the very Word of God.”

A.A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith* (pp. 36-37): “The highest and most influential faith in the truth and authority of the Scriptures is the direct work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. The Holy Spirit opens the blinded eyes and gives due sensibility to the diseased heart; and thus assurance comes with the evidence of spiritual experience.”

II. Lest someone think that “feelings” are the only basis for accepting Scripture, we must go on to set forth the evidences that confirm this faith. Historic Christianity goes on to state the evidential confirmation of faith.

A.A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, p. 37: “When first regenerated, he first begins to set Scripture to the test of experience; and the more he advances, the more he proves them true and the more he discovers of their limitless breadth and fullness, and of their evidently designed adaption to all human wants under all conditions.”

## The Evidences

I. The Scriptures claim to be the inspired Word of God. While this does not in and of itself “prove” the Bible to be God’s Word, without this claim, there is no reason to view the Bible as God’s Word. Its claim to inspiration is what we would expect to find if it is God’s Word. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is inspired? Theologians refer to the doctrine of the verbal, plenary inspiration of the infallible and inerrant Word of God.

A. “**Verbal**”: every letter and word in the original manuscript.

1. [Matt. 5:18](#); cf. [Matt. 22:31-32](#)

2. [1 Cor. 2:13](#)

- B. **“Plenary”**: all 66 books of the Bible.
  1. O.T.” [Matt. 5:17](#); cf. [2 Tim. 3:16](#)
  2. N.T.: [2 Pet. 3:15-16](#); [2 Tim. 3:16](#); [I Cor. 14:37](#)
- C. **“Infallible”**: without error in all matters of faith and morals.
- D. **“Inerrant”**: without error in all that it says about anything including scientific matters.
  1. [Num. 23:19](#); cf. [Heb. 6:18](#)
  2. [John 10:35](#)
  3. [John 17:17](#)

**Note: This is not “arguing in a circle” because the Bible is not one book.** The Bible is a library of 66 books written by more than 40 authors over several thousand years. To quote one book to document another is the soul and substance of all scientific research.

With the Bible we have an experiment over a period of several thousand years. The data from such documentary evidence cannot be swept aside by a wave of a hand.

This is in opposition to the “Bibles” of other religions such as the Koran or the Book of Mormon. They are one book with no historic documents to substantiate them.

## II. Personal Experience Confirms It.

- A. Conversion experiences confirm it.  
(Convinced-Convicted-Converted)
- B. The Christian life confirms it.

1. Everything that happens is exactly what the Bible said would happen.
2. We can live what we believe and believe what we live.
3. The Bible is constantly validated by all the facts at my disposal.

- C. Witnessing experiences confirm it.

Non-Christians react and believe exactly the way the Bible said they would. Example: When arrogant atheist in New York City demanded to know how I knew that the Bible was true, I responded by telling her that she proved the Bible to be true every time she opened her mouth! She was shocked and asked how is this true.

I asked her, “Do you fear God?”

She said, “No.”

“Well, then you just proved that [Rom. 3:18](#) is true. Is the Gospel foolishness to you?”

“Yes!”

“Well, you just proved that [1 Cor. 1:18](#) is true. Do you want your own way instead of living according to God’s way?”

“I don’t want God’s way. I will do as I please.”

“Well, you just proved that [Isa. 53:6](#) is true. Every time you open your mouth you confirm the Bible by saying what it said you would say. Thank you for making me a stronger Christian.”

## III. Scientific Facts Support It.

- A. We are talking about “facts” and not theories.
- B. All the “facts” so far validated support the teachings of the Bible. No “facts” disprove the Bible.
- C. Archaeology proves much of Scripture to be true.
  1. Sir William Ramsey’s conversion and his vindicating of Luke’s and Acts’ historicity.
  2. Verifying fulfilled prophecies: Tyre ([Ezk. 26-27](#)).
  3. Resolving apparent contradictions
  4. Clarifying biblical words

## IV. The Bible teaches a completely satisfying philosophy and way of Life.

### **Conclusion**

“There is more than enough evidence on every hand from every department of human experience and knowledge to demonstrate that Christianity is true.

“The light is shining and the music is playing but the non-Christian shuts his eyes and plugs his ears and then pretends that there is neither light nor sound” (see *An Introduction to Defending the Faith*, pg. 12 or *Christian Student Survival Guide*).

### **Recommended CD Series: The Bible From A to Z**



Does the structure of the Bible have any significance? Is it really God's Word? How did we get the Bible? Does the Bible have any errors? This audio series will not only amaze you, but you will be confident that the Bible you hold in your hand is a gift from God directly to you.



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