



The Good News

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Should we trust the Bible?

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I don't believe any of us have personally seen anyone raised from the dead or had any miraculous interactions with God. In fact, there isn't any irrefutable physical "proof" that God exists (aside from the proof of nature itself), which is why man's numerous efforts to prove there is NO GOD ultimately fail. It's impossible to prove or disprove the existence of God. What we DO have is the Bible, the history of God's interaction with man, and the logical and reasonable conclusions we are able to draw from the Bible about God's existence. Today we want to examine our faith in God's word and ask ourselves, "What assurances do we have that the Bible is truly the word of God?" Obviously, the bottom line is that either we come to believe the Bible is the perfect word of God or we don't. It does us absolutely no good to say that some of it may be God's word and other parts of it are not. In fact, to question its legitimacy and integrity at all brings the entire book into question. If we cannot trust in God's word as truly being God's word, how can we ever hope to have fellowship with Him that is based on knowledge and truth? Therefore, let us consider four categories of Scripture that God gives in His word to assure us that we can indeed trust that what is written will help us to be in fellowship with Him to the saving of our souls.

All Scripture is given by God – In **II Tim. 3:16** Paul says that all Scripture is "*God-breathed*". What is important about this phrase is that this means that none of the writers of Scripture were given arbitrary leeway to write whatever they wanted but, whatever God said, they wrote. In the cases of the epistles, obviously these men wrote instruction to the churches in their own way, yet all the words were inspired by God and in accordance with His will.

We are given eye-witness testimony regarding the words that are recorded – In **John 1:1-10** and in **I John 1:1-4**, we are told that the events and words that are recorded and taught come from those

who were physically with Jesus and were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Even Luke, who may have been a little young during Jesus' ministry, claims in **Luke 1:1-4** to have researched everything he wrote, relying on the eye-witness testimony of those who had been there, even though he had a "*perfect understanding*" of these events through the Holy Spirit.

All Scripture was delivered to man in the same form that God gave it – In **Gal. 1:6-12** Paul encourages the brethren to not heed any doctrine that is different than what they had already received because the Word they had received was not Paul's word, but rather the doctrine of Jesus Christ that had been personally given to Paul by Jesus. The brethren were to never question whether it was Paul's word or God's.

One purpose of the Scriptures is to give us certainty regarding our faith – In **Luke 1:1-4**, Luke tells Theophilus that the purpose of his writing down the events recorded was so that he may have "*certainty of those things in which you were instructed*". All we have is the Bible by which we can know how to please God...if we cannot trust it and be certain of its accuracy, how can we ever hope to please Him?

The Hebrew writer defines faith as "*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (Heb. 11:1). Just because we cannot see something doesn't prove it doesn't exist, especially when we have a basis on which to believe in its existence. Everything from nature to the Bible gives us the foundation for faith in God. Is it blind faith? Believing that a "big bang" ultimately led to the creation of the universe is blind faith, being based on untestable and unprovable metrics, with no basis for its belief, aside from man's desire to NOT believe in God. God has not left us guessing. He has given us "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (II Pet. 1:3). Study with us this morning as we continue this topic further in our sermon today.