



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Tough Questions, Honest Answers

CAN WE REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE?

March 22 & 23, 2024

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (TPT)

God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, for it is God-breathed. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you.

Facts About the Bible:

- It's not 1 book, it's _____ books.
- There are over _____ archaeological discoveries proving people, places, and events in the Bible.
- The Hittite and Philistine nations (once thought mythical) are now verifiably _____.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) confirm the _____ of the entire Old Testament with 99.5% accuracy.
- Non-Christian historians like Josephus, Tacitus, Eusebius and others _____ the existence of Jesus and many facts about Him as contemporaries.

Ancient Text	Earliest Copy	Time Gap	Original # of Copies
Plato 380 BCE	900 AD	1,200 Years	7
Aristotle 350 BCE	1100 AD	1,400 Years	49
New Testament 45-67 AD	125 AD	100 Years	5,800+

The New Testament has more copies like the _____ than all other ancient books combined.

The Bible's Supernatural Transforming Power:

- _____ of people from the time of Paul the Apostle to present day have been radically transformed by the Bible.
- The Bible has _____ countless nations, including the United States, led to social reform (abolition, hospitals, countless charities), and changed hearts.
- Millions have been willing to be _____ for their belief in the authenticity of the Bible.
- _____ prophecies have been fulfilled accurately, including _____ specifically about Jesus Himself.
- The mathematical probability of just 8 out of 1,000 prophecies being _____ by complete coincidence is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).

4 Trusted Realities About the Bible:

- I know the Bible is true because history _____ it.
- I know the Bible is true because prophecies _____ it.
- I know the Bible is true because humanity perfectly _____ it.
- I know the Bible is true because lives like mine can be _____ by it.

Faith + Works = Possible Salvation

Faith in what Christ did alone = Permanent Salvation

KNOWING THESE 4 REALITIES, I MUST...

1

_____ the Word passionately.

Acts 17:11 (NLT)

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2

_____ the Word faithfully.

- _____ will not bring transformation.
- _____ will bring transformation.

James 1:22 (NLT)

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

1 Corinthians 8:1b (ICB)

We know that "we all have knowledge." Knowledge puffs you up with pride, but love builds up.

James 4:17 (NLT)

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

3

_____ the Word unapologetically.

1 Peter 3:15-16a (NLT)

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

CHALLENGE:

Start reading daily in the book of John for the month of April.



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2 Timothy 3:16-17 (TPT)

God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, for it is God-breathed. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you.

Facts About the Bible:

- It's not 1 book, it's 66 books.
- There are over 25,000 archaeological discoveries proving people, places, and events in the Bible.
- The Hittite and Philistine nations (once thought mythical) are now verifiably true.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) confirm the accuracy of the entire Old Testament with 99.5% accuracy.
- Non-Christian historians like Josephus, Tacitus, Eusebius and others confirmed the existence of Jesus and many facts about Him as contemporaries.

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The New Testament has more copies like the original than all other ancient books combined.

The Bible's Supernatural Transforming Power:

- **Billions** of people from the time of Paul the Apostle to present day have been radically transformed by the Bible.
- The Bible has **inspired** countless nations, including the United States, led to social reform (abolition, hospitals, countless charities), and changed hearts.
- Millions have been willing to be **executed** for their belief in the authenticity of the Bible.
- **1,000** prophecies have been fulfilled accurately, including **300** specifically about Jesus Himself.
- The mathematical probability of just 8 out of 1,000 prophecies being **fulfilled** by complete coincidence is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).

4 Trusted Realities About the Bible:

- I know the Bible is true because history **confirms** it.
- I know the Bible is true because prophecies **prove** it.
- I know the Bible is true because humanity perfectly **preserved** it.
- I know the Bible is true because lives like mine can be **changed** by it.

Faith + Works = Possible Salvation

Faith in what Christ did alone = Permanent Salvation

KNOWING THESE 4 REALITIES, I MUST...

1

Study the Word passionately.

Acts 17:11 (NLT)

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2

Apply the Word faithfully.

- Information will not bring transformation.
- Application will bring transformation.

James 1:22 (NLT)

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

1 Corinthians 8:1b (ICB)

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Share the Word unapologetically.

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