

**Topic:** Disciplines - God's Holy Scriptures

### **Scriptural References**

2 Tim 3:16-17, Rom 13:1, Ps 37:11, 2 Cor 9:8, Psalm 12:6, 19:7, 119:105, John 5:39-40

### **Biblical Explanation**

Christians believe that God is the supreme authority (Rom 13:1), that He is all powerful and all wise, and that He has our good in mind (Rom 8:28). God wants us to live an amazing life where we abundantly experience God's grace and favor (Ps 37:11, 2 For 9:8). The way we live this life—led by God where we are intimately connected to God—is by living according to God's desires. We come to know God's desires through the communication of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible. God desires our obedience and He gave us the Bible, God's Holy Word as clarity for us so that we would understand who God is and what He expects of us.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." This passage speaks of God's Word as sacred, which means the Bible is set apart for God.

There are many factors that qualify the Bible as sacred, such as the Bible being inspired, infallible, and inerrant. Inspired means that God both "produced the very words he wanted" and "inspired (the thoughts of Scripture) but the choice of words is left to the individual writers".<sup>1</sup> God used the ways in which he uniquely created the biblical writers to create the Bible while at the same time ensuring the final product was just as He desired. 2 Peter 1:21 reinforces this point, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." The term "infallible" suggests that the Bible does not mislead, is a sure, reliable guide, and is fully trustworthy in all matters about which it speaks."<sup>2</sup> God

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<sup>1</sup> Lea, T. D., & Griffin, H. P. (1992). [1, 2 Timothy, Titus](#) (Vol. 34, p. 239). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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did not create the Bible to be the authority and guide for all matters. There is no wisdom to be drawn from the Bible about which social media site is the best or which pastor preaches the best. But the Bible is God's authoritative word that is trustworthy, because it provides understanding for matters such as grace, sin, salvation, God, love, etc. What the Bible does speak on you can trust. The Bible is inerrant, which means it is without error. As the Psalmist says, "The words of the Lord are pure words (flawless), like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times (12:6, 19:7)." God does not make mistakes and inerrancy can be difficult topic to discuss because Christians and non-Christians vary greatly on principles for what counts as an error. Is an error grammatical, an idea or thought that seems inserted or left out, or different numbers listed by two authors for the same incident? God wants us to think critically and to research the validity of the Scriptures but all the while recognizing our own human frailty, our own errors in thinking, and the futility in thinking we can "catch" God making a mistake.

In an online article<sup>3</sup> referencing Norm Geisler and Thomas Howe's book, *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties*, these words are shared to affirm the reliability of the Scriptures:

"It is important to remember that the biblical manuscripts we have today are in 99 percent agreement with one another. Yes, there are some minor differences, but the vast majority of the biblical text is identical from one manuscript to another. Most of the differences are in punctuation, word endings, minor grammatical issues, word order, etc.—issues easily explainable as scribal mistakes or changes in spelling rules. No important theological issue is thrown into doubt by any supposed error or contradiction. Biblical manuscripts from the fifteenth century agree completely with manuscripts from the third century. We can have absolute confidence that the Bible we have today is almost exactly identical to what the apostles and prophets wrote 2,000-plus years ago."

The Bible is to be used in a manner where we teach one another God's ways and rebuke or correct one another based on God's truth so that we will be completely developed to do the good works God has for us (2 Tim 3:16-17). God speaks through His word to give us guidance and direction (Psalm 119:105). But ultimately the Holy Scriptures all testify to Jesus being Lord. Don't just use the Bible to seem smarter in church or to help you be a good person, but allow the Bible to guide you into a deeper relationship with Jesus (John 5:39-40). When people are having struggles in their faith pastors often ask how often the individual is reading their Bible. Not

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-inerrancy.html>

because simply reading a passage of Scripture makes life easy but because reading God's Word reminds you of Jesus' power and authority in your life and His sovereign rule over all situations. The Bible helps renew our minds and give us proper perspective as we go through life.

Dr. Michael A. Milton refers to the Bible as "a collection of sixty-six books composed and compiled over 2,000 years by forty authors on three continents. Despite the impressive diversity of authors, genre—from history to poetry, from prophecy to personal accounts—and languages, the Bible displays an irrefutable unity of purpose, undivided harmony of thought, an unfolding narrative that is both unified and progressive. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, projects universal truth that remains applicable to people around the world."

### **Main Points**

- The Bible is sacred, a book that is set apart from other books, for God alone.
- The Bible is inspired, meaning that God used people to create the Bible He intended for humanity to have.
- The Bible is infallible, meaning it is trustworthy on matters that it discusses.
- The Bible is inerrant, meaning it has no errors.
- The Bible is a unified work testifying to God and the redemptive works of Jesus Christ.
- To study the Bible and not grow closer to Jesus is foolish.

### **Suggested Questions**

1. How would you describe the difference between the infallible, inerrant, and inspired aspects of the Scriptures.
2. With so many Bibles readily available, so many copies on our shelves, do we view the Bible as holy and sacred? Is your Bible treated any different than any other book in your home? If so, how?
3. How has reading God's Word impacted your life?
4. What would you tell a new believer about the importance of God's Word in their spiritual formation? Do you believe that for yourself today?
5. What stories, book(s), or genres (narrative, poetry, etc.) help you understand God? Help you feel connected or intimate with God?

## **Additional Resources**

- Lea, T. D., & Griffin, H. P. (1992). *1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (Vol. 34, p. 239). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- The Bible Project - What is the Bible?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4>
- It's best to read through the Scripture references found at the beginning of this document to help you understand what God says about the Bible.