

# The Bible: Our Firm Foundation

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## Introduction: A Strong Foundation Matters

Some houses look beautiful after a renovation, but underneath they still have big problems. At a glance we can make things look perfect, but sometimes under the surface things can be broken.

The foundation might be cracked. The plumbing might be broken. If you build on a faulty foundation, the whole house can fall.

Our faith is the same. **If we build our spiritual life on something that is not strong, everything can collapse.**

That is why we are starting this series by talking about the Bible.

We do not worship the Bible, and don't want to put it in a position it doesn't deserve – we're not implying it is more important to us than God – but we start with the Bible, because God has given it to us as that solid foundation for everything else we believe, and the best way we can get to know Him.

## Part One: The Word that God Breathed

The Bible is not just a book written by people. It is the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16 says that "All Scripture is breathed out by God." This means the Bible comes directly from God.

He used people to write it, but He guided them by His Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine we call "verbal plenary inspiration" The word "**verbal**" means that *each individual word* is given to us by God. The word "**plenary**" means that *all of it* is inspired.

**Inspired** is more than just being *inspiring* like a great poem or a rousing speech. It means that it is the *word of God* given to us, by Him.

Jesus believed the Bible was completely reliable and authoritative. Even though Jesus was the living word, God incarnate, in his human ministry, He quoted it, and He said it would never be broken. He made it his source of authority.

We believe that when the Bible speaks, God speaks.

Because the Bible is God's Word, it is **completely true and full of authority**. We do not get to choose which parts we like. We listen to all of it. That is why it is the starting point for our beliefs and our lives.

## **Part Two: The Word that God Preserved**

Some people say, "Even if the Bible was true when it was written, how do we know it is still true today?" That is a good question.

It is true, over many years, the Bible has been copied and translated.

But God did not just inspire His Word—He also **preserved** it. The Bible tells us that God never lies. His Word is eternal.

Jesus said not even the smallest part of God's Law would pass away. He trusted the Scriptures, even though they were written a long time before His birth.

Jesus also used a translation of the Bible, the Greek Septuagint, and still believed it was reliable. That shows us that a good translation can still be called the Word of God.

We can also trust the Bible because of history.

We have thousands of old copies of the Bible, more than any other ancient book. There are **over 5,800** Greek New Testament manuscripts

and over **25,000 in total** when we include other languages. The earliest were copied only a few decades after the originals. No other ancient book has anywhere near *as many* or *as early* copies.

Even when these copies are not identical to one another – they were hand written copies that sometimes include spelling things like differences, minor word changes, skipped lines, or “harmonization” where similar words or phrases from one gospel may be added to another, no important belief of the Christian faith has been lost or changed.

Even if there are small differences between some copies, none of them change the main message. We believe God guided His people to keep His Word safe through the years. It is reliable. We can trust it.

### **Part Three: The Word that Is Enough**

Finally, we believe that the Bible is not only true and preserved—it is also **enough**.

It gives us everything we need to live a faithful life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says the Bible **teaches, corrects, trains, and prepares us for every good work**.

It may not tell us everything we want to know, but it tells us everything we **need to know** to live a faithful Christian life, to know God, understand his truth, to walk with Him, and to share the good news with other people.

This protects us in three ways.

First, it **protects us from distractions**. We do not need new spiritual messages or experiences to follow God. God has already told us what we need to know.

Second, it **protects us from human rules**. Some people add extra rules to the Bible, like the Pharisees did. But God alone tell us what is required. We don't need to let our own preferences or traditions – even when they are good – stand in the way of the gospel, or prevent us from having unity with other Christians.

Third, it **gives us confidence**. We are not missing anything important. Everything we need for life and godliness is found in knowing Christ through His Word.

## **Conclusion: Build Your Life on This Word**

The Bible does not answer every question, but **it answers the most important ones**.

It tells us who God is, what is wrong with the world, how to be made right with Him, and how to follow Him.

**It gives us truth, hope, and direction.**

We do not need to look for something more—we need to go deeper into what God has already said.

The Bible is breathed out by God, preserved by God, and enough for us today.

It is a firm foundation. **Let's build our lives on it.**