

Hard Questions

Can We Trust the Bible?

The Bible can be trusted because it was written by eyewitnesses and many of its prophecies have proven true (2 Peter 1:16-21). Many today are asking the question: can we really trust the Bible? For many followers of Jesus, they have a basic confidence in the Bible because they were either taught that the Bible is God's Word, feel good about it, have faith in the Bible is God's Word, or have been changed by it. Unfortunately, these reasons alone do not make the Bible true. Instead, the eyewitness accounts of the New Testament (many of whom died for what they saw) as well as the fulfillment of prophecy throughout Scripture validate God's authorship and confirm for us that the Bible is true.

GETTING STARTED

Who and what has shaped your view of the Bible (e.g. your family of origin, an experience, a friend or mentor, a class, etc.)? Has your view of the Bible changed over time, and if so, how?

GO DEEPER

1. There are a number of reasons why people may think the Bible is true, such as a) it was what they were taught, b) they feel good about the Bible, c) they have faith that the Bible is God's Word, or d) the Bible changed their life. While these views may help us have greater confidence in the Bible, why do they alone not make the Bible true?
2. 2 Peter 1:16-18 claims that Peter and other early followers of Jesus were **eyewitnesses** to the life, ministry, and miracles of Jesus (including His death and resurrection). Why is it important that the New Testament was written by eyewitnesses, and why is it so unlikely that the early apostles created or greatly exaggerated the story of Jesus to create a religion where they were the leaders?
3. According to Matthew 7:24-25, everyone who hears these words of Jesus and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. How does the Word of God produce a solid foundation that allows us to stand firm when we experience the storms of life?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How much do you trust the Bible as the inspired, authoritative Word of God? What are the reasons you have for trusting it or not trusting it?
2. What questions or doubts do you have about the Bible that make it difficult for you to fully to trust it? What are you doing (and should do) with those questions or doubts?
3. 2 Timothy 3:16 makes it clear that *all scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*. How is scripture proving profitable in your life? How is it teaching, correcting, and training you? What possibly needs to change so that the Word of God is more living and active in your heart and life (Hebrews 4:12)?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, read Matthew 7:24-25 out loud. Take time to pray that you would be hearers and doers of God's Word, and that you would be wise men and women who build their life on truth. Invite God to use His Word to teach, reproof, correct, and train you for righteousness. Ask Him to help you prioritize the Bible in your regular schedule and routines so that you are prepared for the storms you may face.