

2Ti 03 12 Why I Know the Bible Is The Word of God

WHY I KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD 2 TIMOTHY 3:12

Introduction:

1. Take God's Word please and open to 2 Timothy uh chapter 3. I was thinking about my own background and my love of the Holy Scriptures. And I was asking myself, _____, why do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?
 - a. And I pondered on that subject. And I said to myself, Well, I believe the Word of God because I was told it was the Word of God. I mean, to begin with. My mother and daddy told me the Bible was the Word of God. In our home, we just had certain principles.
 - (1) Number one is that you never set another book on top of the Bible, or never set anything else on top of the Bible. Or you never put the Bible on the floor. It was just a different book. It was the Word of God.
 - (2) And as a child, I didn't understand all of that, but I had respect for my parents. And I just said, Well, that is the Word of God. I didn't know much about it. I didn't understand it. But I had a respect for it.
2. I was 15 years old when I obeyed the gospel and became a Christian. I responded in faith and repentance and was baptized, immersed into Christ for the remission of sins. I had studied my Bible before and had to be convinced that it was true, and that what I was doing to become a Christian was just what the Bible taught.
 - a. And I continued to study and learned more about it. And now I know it is the Word of God, but not just because my mother and daddy thought so.
 - b. I have other reasons now for believing that the Bible is the word of God. And I want to share those reasons with you in a moment.
3. But I want us to begin reading by 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 12. The Bible says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
 - a. Question. Are you living godly in Christ Jesus? Well, a good test is are you getting any persecution? If you're not getting any persecution, you better check yourself out.

- b. Now, persecution doesn't mean that they're going to flog you or stone you. It might mean they'll laugh at you. It might mean they'll overlook you. It might mean they'll put you down.
 - i. It might mean they'll pass you up. But friend, you be an out and out Christian in this world, there is no way you're going to come out unscathed.
 - c. Amen? That's what God's Word says. And not only in that first century, but I suppose in every age, and it is true today, because the Bible says, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."
 - d. Friend, that verse is still true to this day.
4. "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect. [That means complete, mature.] Thoroughly furnished unto all good works. I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing in his kingdom, Preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. [Now, it's not the teachers that have the itching ears. It's the hearers whose ears itch to hear something different.] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things. Endure affliction. Do the work of an evangelist. Make full proof of thy ministry."
- a. One of the prominently conservative scholars authors of today, J. Sidlow Baxter, in one of his books said that the biggest division between Christians is no longer between one denomination and another, but between those who accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God and those who don't. No longer is the chief division between denominations.
 - b. The battle today is over the Word of God. And we're finding more and more those who believe in the full inspiration of the Word of God are being drawn together more and more across America to stand against atheism and humanism.
 - c. Now in the Scripture that I've read, I have said three great truths about the Bible that I just want to lay as a groundwork before I tell you three reasons I believe the Bible to be the Word of God. What difference does it make?

1. Well, first of all, the Bible tells us in verse 16 that it is an inspired book.
 - a. Look in verse 16. 2 Timothy 3 verse 16. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”
 - i. Now, that word literally means that the Scripture is given by God's breath. It is the breath of God. Theopneustis means it is the literal breath of God, just as my voice is my breath coming up from my diaphragm, out of my lungs, over my larynx, articulated by my tongue, lips, and teeth, you're hearing the expulsion of my breath, when you hear my words.
 - ii. The Scripture is the Word of God and comes out from him, just as much as though God had a larynx and a tongue and lips, as much as if God himself is speaking. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.
 - b. So the Scriptures number one, are inspired. And when we say they're inspired, we don't mean partial inspiration, because it says, “all Scripture.”
 - i. We don't mean progressive inspiration. For the Old Testament is just as inspired as the New Testament. It may not be as inspiring, but it is as inspired.
 - ii. And I want to tell you that 1 Samuel 3 is just as inspired as John 3. It's all just as inspired.
 - iii. And so, not partial inspiration, not progressive inspiration, but plenary inspiration. The word plenary means full. We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration.
 - c. Verbal means ‘word by word’ inspiration. You see, not just the thoughts are inspired. The very words are inspired. You can't have thoughts without words any more than you could have mathematics without numbers.
 - i. Jesus said in Matthew 4 verse 4, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

So, when we say verbal inspiration, we mean that the words are inspired. When we say plenary inspiration, the word, Latin word “plenus” means “full.” Everything is inspired. All of the Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, every word as God gave it, not as someone may mistranslate it, but every word as God gave it is inspired. So verse 16 tells us the Scriptures are inspired.

2. Verse 16 also tells us that the Scriptures are instructive, that God gave them to us for a reason. Now, first of all, God gave us Scriptures to know what is right. All Scripture is given and is profitable for doctrine. Do you see that?
 - a. The word doctrine means teaching, to know what is right. You've got to have something that says, This is right and this is wrong. There used to be a time when preachers would stand in the pulpit and say, "The Bible says . . ." And then they started to say, "The Church says . . ." And now, they just sort of scratch their head and say, "Well, it seems to me. . . ." Ha, we're not interested in that. We want to know "is there a word from God?" [_ _ _ _ _] The Scripture is profitable for *doctrine* to show us what's right.
 - b. But also the Scripture is profitable to show us what is wrong. Because it also says for *reproof*. That is, the Bible tells us when we're wrong. Not only does it show what's right. It shows us what's wrong.
 - c. But then, that's not enough. It goes on to tell us how to get right when we are wrong. "*For correction.*" The Bible is here to show us when we stray off course how to get back on course, how to get right.
 - d. And then the Bible is here to tell us how to stay right. For *instruction in righteousness*.

So, what is the Bible for? It is instructive. To show us what's right, to show us what's wrong, to show us how to get right when we are wrong, and how to stay right when we are right. Now, that's what the Bible is here for.

3. Not only is the Scripture inspired and not only is it instructive, but therefore it is instrumental. Since it does these things, let me show you what it is instrumental to do.
 - a. First of all, you're going to be saved through knowledge of the Scripture. Notice verse 15. "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."
 - i. No one is ever saved apart from the Word of God. You can't be saved apart from the Word of God, because the Word of God is the truth that saves you. [1 Peter].
 - ii. You see, dear friend, when you want one to be saved, if you want them to believe, you've got to give them something to believe. And so, the Scriptures are instrumental for salvation.

- b. But not only for salvation, they're also instrumental for spiritual growth. Look in verse 17. "That the man of God may be perfect." Now, the word perfect means mature. So the Scriptures are here not only to help you to be saved, but to help you to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Pet 3:18).
 - i. The measure of your growth is measured to great degree by your feeding on the Word of God. The Bible says in, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby."
- c. They're instrumental for salvation, they're instrumental for spiritual growth, and the Scriptures are instrumental for service.
 - i. You want to serve the Lord? Now, he says, he gave us the Scripture, "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works". Friend, the Bible is here to help you know how to serve God, and others, for service.
 - ii. The Bible becomes the preacher's battle axe, the preacher's sword, the preacher's well for waters of refreshing. It is it is the thing that impels us in loving and serving one another.. It is what impels all of us and instructs all of us and guides us as we serve the Lord.

So, the Scriptures are inspired, the Scriptures, my friend, are instructive, the Scriptures are instrumental for salvation, spiritual growth, and service.

One writer went on to say, This is the book that has walked more paths, traveled more highways, and knocked on more doors, and spoken to more people in their mother tongue than any other book this world has ever known or ever will know.

Now having said all of that, let me tell you the three reasons why you should believe the Bible is the Word of God. I could give you many more. But these are the three basic reasons. I've tried to distill it into three principles.

- I. The very first principle I want to give you is what I want to call the fact "f-a-c-t", the fact principle, or the fact factor. You see, there are certain facts that cause me to believe the Bible is the Word of God. I don't believe the Bible is the Word of God by mere blind faith.
As a matter of fact, I don't like the term 'blind faith'. When somebody tells me to believe, the first question that comes in my mind is, "Why should I believe?" A little boy was asked, "What is faith?" And he replied, "Well, that's believing when there ain't any reason to."

No, that's not faith. Now listen. Faith is rooted in evidence. Faith is believing in something that is reasonable and is supported by evidence.

Faith is rooted in facts. I don't have any confidence in someone saying, "well just believe."

Many of you have heard the story of the boy who fell over the cliff and many hundreds of feet below were the jagged rocks. He grabbed a limb and was holding on, swinging, suspended in mid-air. It was too high to climb back up to the top, and below was certain death. He began to yell at the top of his voice, Help me! Is there anybody up there? Help me! And the voice came, said, I'm here. He asked "who's there". "It's me, God." "Help me!" He said, Very well, let go of the limb. He thought about it a moment and said, "Is there anybody else up there?"

I'm very much like him. Why should we just simply do something because someone says so, and says, "Just trust me?" Oh, no, when God says to us "trust Me" he gives us some evidence that we can have confidence in; and that's what we want, to want to have some facts.

The Christian faith is rooted not in fable but in fact. And when you believe the Bible, it is not a leap into the dark, it is a step into the light. Now, let me give you some facts, just plain facts as to why I believe the Bible is the Word of God.

A. For example, there is **historical fact**.

1. Turn with me to the book of Luke for a moment. The book of Luke, and let's look in Luke chapter 1 verses 1 through 4. You're going to find out that Luke is an historical document. Dr. Luke, who was a medical doctor, wrote the book of Luke, and he says in Luke 1 verse 1, "For as much as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word. It seemed to me, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first [and that may be translated as having understanding of all things from above,] to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed."

a. Now, Luke said, Theophilus, you want to know about these things? He said, I, number one, I am an eyewitness to many of these things; number two, I've talked with and interviewed many other eye witnesses, and number three, I've had inspiration, knowledge from above, and I'm going to give you something that is absolutely

certain.

- b. Now, Luke claimed to be an historian. But there was a man named Sir William Ramsey. Now, Sir William Ramsey was the rising professor of humanities at Aberdeen University in Scotland. He was studying specializing in his area of the history and geography of Asia Minor. Early in his career, before he had personally made any tours of Asia Minor, he read Luke's account of the book of Acts, the same Luke that wrote the Gospel of Luke. And this is what Sir William Ramsey had to say about what Luke wrote. He said, "The book of Acts is a highly imaginative and carefully colored account of primitive Christianity." Can you hear the disdain in his voice? He says that Luke just got carried away with his imagination, and he just colored the situation any way he wanted. That is, he was saying, From disposition as a historian and student of geography of history of Asia Minor, I have no respect, no respect as a historian for the book of Acts.
 - c. But Sir William Ramsey went to the Middle East with the avowed purpose of proving Dr. Luke wrong in his history. And Sir William Ramsey made an intensive study. I'm talking to you about one of the world's most eminent scholars. And when held finished, he wrote a number of books on the Cities of St. Paul, and St. Paul the Traveler, all as seen from Acts and the epistles of Paul with his immense knowledge of geography, history, and culture of Asia Minor. One book about Luke entitled "The Beloved Physician," in which he declared Luke to be one of the world's greatest historians. And this is what he said after he took a more careful look, and I quote. He said, "I take the view that Luke's history is unsurpassed in regard to its trustworthiness. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they will stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment." Did you hear that? That's what Dr. Sir William Ramsey had to say.
- (1) Let me give you an example of what he's talking about. For example, in Luke chapter 2 verses 1 and 2, the birth of Jesus. No need to turn to it. Let me just tell you this. The birth of Jesus was said to be when Cyrenius was the governor of Syria. That's what Luke tells us, when Cyrenus was the governor of Syria. And yet, the Bible teaches that Jesus was born before the death of Herod the Great. And Herod the Great died in 4 B.C. And Cyrenius was governor in A.D. 8 through 10, A.D. So, skeptical historians said,

Evidently, there's some problem there. But as Sir William Ramsey continued to study, he found out that Cyrenius was governor twice. The first time, corresponding to the time when Herod was Governor, when Jesus was born, and then he was governor again after Herod. Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that, it's a great thing. But you see, those are the kind of things that somebody might read carelessly and say, Well, the Bible is not the inspired Word of God.

2. Again in the book of Daniel, there was a king whose name was Belshazzar. He was the king that saw the handwriting on the wall. You remember that story. And there was a great feast, and Belshazzar saw the handwriting on the wall that told that his kingdom was divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. People laughed at that idea and said, Well, the book of Daniel was a fabrication because the last king of Babylon was not Belshazzar, but a man named Nabonidus. And they had the ancient records of the Babylonians. And they had the name Nabonidus. And the record clearly showed that Nabonidus was the last king of Babylon. But, they continued to dig. The spade of the archaeologist did its work. And one day they unearthed a cylinder with historical information of the kingdom. . And on that cylinder was a name. And guess whose name was there. It was the name Belshazzar. And as they continued, they read and found more and more documents mentioning Belshazzar. And finally, the truth dawned on them. There was a king named Nabonidus, who was the last king of Babylon. But he wasn't the only last king. Belshazzar, his son, was also king with him. . Nabonidus was the father of Belshazzar, and they reigned together. They were co-regents. That explains when Daniel was told, If you can read the handwriting on the wall, Belshazzar said, I'll make you the third ruler in the kingdom. You see, he couldn't make him the second ruler. There was already two rulers. He had to be the third ruler. Well, suppose that they never found the tablets, the cylinder, with Belshazzar's name. Would that make the Bible any less true? No. You'd just be limited in your information. The Bible would still be true. But what I'm trying to say to you, dear friend, as you study historical fact you find out that the Bible is a historically accurate instrument.
3. There was a man, Dr. Driver, who said that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Dr. Driver, a very famous linguist said, The reason that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch is that in the time when Moses was supposed to have been alive, men didn't know how to write. So how could Moses have written these books? That's what Dr. Driver said, until in Northern Egypt they uncovered some tablets called the Tel El Amarna tablets. I

studied about them when I was a kid about Junior High School, studied about the Tel El Amarna tablets. And in these tablets were records of letters written on clay tables sent from people in Egypt to people in Palestine and Syria before Moses was born. Not only did they know how to write, they had a postal system. They were sending letters back and forth. Probably got there quicker than ours.

Dear friend, there are the skeptics who want reject and mock at the Bible. I'm telling you, dear friend, there are the historical facts of the Bible.

- B. There are not only the historical facts, there are the scientific facts of the Bible.
 - 1. One interesting discovery was a medical book that goes all the way back to about 1552 B.C. It's called the papyrus Ebers. And that is a compendium, a gathering together of the medical knowledge of ancient Egypt. Ancient Egypt had the dominant position of medicine in the ancient world. And what the ancient Egyptians were able to do is astounding and incredible. And people are still trying to figure out such things as how they embalmed the dead and did certain procedures and so forth. But, in this medical book, there are some ludicrous things that you read also.
 - a. I'll give you some of the prescriptions in the papyrus Ebers. For example, to prevent the hair from turning grey you anoint it with the blood of a black cat which has been boiled in oil, or with the fat of a rattlesnake. I suggest the blood of a black myself. Rattlesnake fat is hard to come by. Now, here is a, here is a prescription if you're losing your hair, if your hair's falling out. When it falls out, one remedy is to apply a mixture of six fats, namely those of the snake and the ibex. To strengthen it, you anoint it with the tooth of a donkey crushed in honey. Sounds like a good prescription, doesn't it? I've got one better than that. You can take alum and persimmon juice and rub it on your head. Now, it won't grow any hair, but it'll shrink your head to fit the hair you got. (laughter)
 - b. Here's another prescription in the papyrus Ebers. If you have a splinter that's embedded, you take worm's blood and donkey's dung and you put it on that splinter. Can you imagine the tetanus spores and things that would be in donkey's dung? Other drugs that they used were lizard's blood, swine's teeth, rotten meat, moisture from pig's ears, donkey's hooves, even excretion from animals, including human beings, donkeys, antelopes, dogs, cats, and even flies. Fly excreta, it's hard to gather. But you've got to have all of this.

- c. Now listen. I want you to understand, dear friend. This was written by the sophisticated and learned ancient Egyptians. Now, put on top of that the fact that Moses studied in the University of Egypt. Did you know the Bible says that Moses was trained in all the knowledge of the Egyptians? He had the best education that money could buy because his adopted daddy, Pharaoh said, I want this boy to reign in my stead, gave him the best education.
2. Aren't you glad that when you read the book of Genesis or Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and so forth, aren't you glad you don't read anything about lizard's blood and donkey's dung, and all of this kind of stuff as being these cures?
 - a. Listen, when you read the Bible and you read the Pentateuch, and you read the sanitary code, and you read the dietary code, you're going to find one of the highest levels of scientific knowledge that you'll find even to this day. And you'll not find one medical misconception in Moses' writings.
 - b. As a matter of fact, Moses says things that are incredible, like, The life of the flesh is in the blood. This was before the day of hematology and microbiology. How did Moses know that this blood is a red river of life? "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
 - c. In the 14th century the Black Plague was the greatest human disaster that's ever come. An estimated 60 million people died in the Black Plague in Europe. But let me tell you what brought the Black Plague to a close. It was people who turned to the Bible, and not the doctors, that brought the plague under control. Finally, those religious leaders in the Church began to read the Word of God. In desperation they read Leviticus chapter 13 verse 46, and it spoke of someone who had a plague. And it says, "All the days wherein the plague shall be in him, he shall be defiled. He is unclean. He shall dwell alone outside the camp."
 - d. That's the principle that we use today when we put people in an isolation ward. That's the principle we use today when we quarantine people. But friend, they didn't understand germs. You couldn't have said, He has a germ. They'd say, What? They couldn't say, He has a virus, or he has the flu. They didn't understand that.
 - e. So the Bible taught these people so long ago that principle of

isolation and quarantining. And in Vienna, Austria in 1840, mothers would go for pre- natal examination. And after the doctor would examine the mother for a pre-natal examination, one out of every six mothers would get sick and die with a fever. They couldn't understand this. Why are these mothers dying?

- (1) There was a doctor whose name was Dr. Semmelweis. Dr. Sermelweiss got to thinking about it, and he noticed that these doctors would go first into the morgue. They would examine the cadavers, the corpses of those that had died, sometimes would do an autopsy. And then, without even washing their hands, would come and examine these mothers with a pelvic examination. These mothers, of course, were being infected and they were dying. They didn't understand why.
 - (2) But Dr. Semmelweiss read the Bible. And he read in the Bible where Moses made people wash their hands after contact with a dead body. And so, without even really completely knowing why, he was the head of the hospital, and so he said, From now on, when you leave the morgue, you are to scrub. You're to wash your hands. As they began to wash their hands, dear friends, not one out of six died. But listen, from then on, only 1 out of 84 died.
 - (3) They thought they'd hit on something. But then, suddenly 11 out of 12 died in a row. After having been examined by a doctor who had washed his hands, after having come from the morgue, but he did not wash his hands after examining one mother and then another. And so, then Dr. Semmelweis said, You're to wash your hands after every examination. [Decided that the sickness was contagious, and being spread by the doctors themselves. This was outrageous and many of his peers ridiculed him.]
 - (4) Now, what doctor would not think of doing that today? The doctor is going to scrub to his elbows with an antiseptic. Well, you just take that all for granted.
3. But, dear friend, let me tell you something. Turn with me to the book of Numbers chapter 19:14 in the Word of God. And see what God told Moses so long ago. I begin reading in verse 14. "And this is the law, when a man dieth, all that come into his tent and all that is in the tent shall be

unclean seven days.” That's to give time for the bacteria to die. “And every open vessel which hath no covering bound upon it is unclean.” Any pot, anything that's open there is unclean. All right. “And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword or in the open fields or a dead body, or the bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.” And for an unclean person, they shall take the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin and running water, running water now, shall be put there into in a vessel. And the clean person shall take hyssop and dip it in the water and sprinkle it upon the tent and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that toucheth a bone, or one that is slain, or one dead, or a grave. And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day. And on the seventh day, he shall purify himself. [Now, watch this.] And wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean at even.”

- a. Now, there is some ritual in there, probably for a purpose we don't even understand, and there's some religious teaching. But I want you to listen also to the biological teaching here.
- b. The Bible says you're to use running water, not some stagnant pool, running water.
- c. Repeated washing, there's to be a time interval to let the bacteria die.
- d. And even a change of clothing. Now, folks, that's the same thing they do down at at the hospital today.

I'm trying to tell you, dear friend, that I believe the Bible to be the Word of God because of the because of its reliable historical factor. I believe the Bible to be the Word of God because of the scientific factor.

- C. I'll tell you another reason why can believe the Bible to be the Word of God. Because of the fact of its indestructability.
 1. You see, the Bible is not the book of the month, it's the book of the age. No book has ever suffered as much persecution as the Bible. The Bible's been laughed at, scorned, laws have been made against it. It's been burned. It's been treated as contraband. And yet, the Bible stands.
 2. John Wycliffe translated the Scriptures into English so the common people could read it. It was against the wishes of the religious/civil leaders of the day.
 - a. And so, following his death, he had this message read over him by the archbishop of Canterbury. And this is what the archbishop had to say about this man, John Wycliffe. He called him, and I quote,

“that pestilent wretch of damnable memory, son of the old sea serpent, yea, the forerunner and disciple of the Anti-Christ, who as the complement of his wickedness invented a new translation of the Scriptures into his mother tongue.” I'd say he didn't like him, wouldn't you?

- b. Then later, in 1415, the Council of Constance condemned his writings and took his bones and dug them up, and threw his bones into the fire.
- c. Then they took the ashes of his bones, and they were thrown into the river that, so that England could be rid of such a man.
- d. But as someone has beautifully said, the river carried his bones to the sea, and by the waves they lapped the shores of every continent, symbolic of the spread of the Bible to all lands.

- 3. Let me tell you about William Tyndale. William Tyndale began to translate the Bible into English, and due to opposition, he went to Germany, where he completed his translation, prepared to print it.
 - a. After months in setting the type, he went to bed one night, and was going to start printing the next day. But that night vandals destroyed the type. Patiently, he had to reset it all. And his printing was finished late in 1525.
 - b. He wanted to get his Bibles out of Germany back into England, so he smuggled the Bibles into England by putting them in barrels of flour so that people could have the Bible in their mother tongue.
 - c. As a result of this work, Tyndale was arrested. And on October the 6th, 1536, he was strangled and burned.
 - d. And as he was in the flame, this is what Tyndale said. This was his his dying prayer. He prayed this. “Lord, open the King of England's eyes”.
 - (1) And his prayer was answered with the publication of the King James Version of the Bible that I'm preaching from tonight. You see, dear friend, there is the ever-living quality of the Bible.
 - (2) The Bible is with us because the Bible itself says that, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away.” Not one jot nor one tittle shall fail from the law till all be fulfilled. Marvellous fact that tells us that the Bible is the Word of God.

- D. Another fact is the fact of fulfilled prophecy. I could speak for weeks, months, on the one subject of fulfilled prophecy. And we could narrow the subject of prophecy just down to one person, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. And as we've told you before, there are more than 300 direct prophecies in

the Old Testament that tell about the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no way, it is astronomically, phenomenally impossible to explain the fulfillment of these prophecies, these facts apart from divine inspiration.

2. The critics say, Well, Jesus Christ just arranged, he just arranged to have these prophecies fulfilled so he would look like the Messiah.
 - a. Do you think he arranged, he managed-to be born in Bethlehem?
 - b. Do you think that he arranged for Isaiah, 700 years before he was born, to describe his virgin birth in Isaiah 7:9, and to describe his death by crucifixion in Isaiah 53?
 - c. Do you think the Lord Jesus simply arranged in Psalm 22 to have his death by crucifixion so described that it sounds as though one was standing at the foot of the cross. And this was when crucifixion was not even a known form of execution.
 - d. Do you think that Jesus arranged to be crucified between two thieves?
 - e. Do you think that Jesus arranged for Judas to betray him with 30 pieces of silver?
 - f. And then, do you think he arranged the classic arrangement, ha ha uh, that he was going to be crucified and on the third day, he's going to come to life again. Appear to over 500, and so convince them that they would gladly lay down their lives for that belief?

3. Friends, the only one who could arrange all this complex course of events, was God. And He did arrange it, to demonstrate the evidence of prophecy, to vindicate all those inspired prophets who went before.
 - a. Well, Christ is the only one who ever arranged anything before he was ever born. My dear friend, he didn't arrange it after his his birth.
 - b. He arranged it all before he was born. And it is written in Holy Scripture.
 - c. And Matthew chapter 26 verse 56 says, "But all of this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled".

Now, that's what I want to call just the fact factor. Just the **fact factor**. But let me give you another factor. And these will be much briefer. The faith factor.

- II. That's the second reason, the **faith factor**. You see, dear friend, there's all of these facts, there are all of these facts, this objective evidence.
 - A. And our faith is rooted in all this evidence, but it must go beyond evidence in order to be faith.
 1. And so, the Hebrew writer explains it this way, "Faith is the evidence of

things not seen.” Now we have not seen God, but because of this evidence, I believe in Him.

2. That is the faith factor. I believe the Bible is God revealing his message, his will, his heart so to speak, to us today.

B. In these Scriptures, God speaks to our hearts, and he tell us, or explains to us the answer to the many “why” questions we have.

1. And we have come to believe in God, and to BELIEVE GOD and what he says. The Lord Jesus Christ brought these great truths to light.
2. Listen -- This is the reason Jesus said in John chapter 7 verse 17, “If any man wills to do God's will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
3. And then, he said in John chapter 10, “My sheep hear my voice.”

The FACT Factor, gives us evidence to believe in the Lord himself and to hear what he has to say.

This, I call the FAITH Factor.

Now, my friend, I by faith have heard God speak through this book. Maybe you haven't, but I have. I have facts that tell me the Word of God is the Word of God. And I have faith that tells me the Word of God is the Word of God. I have heard his voice. John 10:16. I don't know about you, but to me it's the Word of God.

First, It is rooted in fact.

And second it is rooted in faith because I trust HIM who gave it to us.

III. Now, let me give you quickly the third reason. That wasn't so long, and the third one will not be so long.

First of all there is the **fact factor**.

Secondly, there is the **faith factor**.

And thirdly, there is the **fulfillment factor**.

When I have these facts and exercise my faith in the ONE who them to me, then I can know in my heart that it is true and it demonstrates its truth in fulfilled lives.

- A. And that the principles work, and they transform my life, and I am fulfilled.
- B. We see fulfilled marrages based on the Bible -- we see fulfilled families
 1. I believe that businesses and work conditions thrive and are fulfilled when these printiciples are utilized--
 2. The success of these principles and philosophy prove their value and worth.
 3. The fulfillment factor. But listen to the scriptures...

- C. That's the reason the Bible says in Psalm 34 verse 8, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good."
1. Now, suppose somebody has before us a luscious looking piece of fruit. It's fragrant. It is beautiful. It looks good. It smells good.
 - a. Those are facts. I can tell it is fruit. I can tell that it is fragrant. But I don't know for certain that it's good.
 - b. Now, suppose somebody else comes up and testifies that it is good, and says, I ate some. It was delicious. It satisfied me. I'm getting more evidence now.
 - c. But, oh, wait a moment. Suppose I take those facts, and suppose I take the faith in that person who's spoken to me, and then suppose I do this, suppose I take a bite. I say, Yes, it's wonderful.
 - (1) Ps. 34:8 "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good." You see, now I have the evidence inside of me.
 2. And so, faith is rooted in evidence, faith in the one who verifies goes beyond evidence, and then, fulfilment becomes its own best evidence.
 3. I believe because I believed. But now I have tasted.
 - a. And you can tell me, dear friend, when I'm eating apple pie, that there is no such thing as apple pie, ha uh or that apple pie is not good. But that's your problem, not mine.
- D. Now listen, friend. A Christian enjoying the blessings of the Christian life experience is never at the mercy of an infidel with an argument. Isn't that right?
1. I mean, a man arguing against apple pie while you're eating it, uh you have the advantage on him.
 2. Now, my dear friend, what he's saying is, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Ps. 34:8)

REVIEW

Yes, there is the **fact factor**.

There are facts, plain facts.

There is the **faith factor**.

Others have said it is the Word of God, and God Himself says it. And the Holy Spirit tells us it is the Word of God.

But then third, oh, there is the **fulfillint factor**.

We're like that man who was born blind who said, "Once I was blind, but now I see."

When I'm talking about the fulfillment factor, let me give you some verses.

1 John 2 verse 27. "But the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you. But as the same anointing teacheth you of all things and is true, and is no lie, even as even as it hath taught you you shall abide in him."

CONCLUSION:

1. Friends I became a Christian as a teenage boy. Right away I got a hunger for the Word of God, and began preaching every month in my Junior and Senior years in high school. I began my first full time preaching with a church when I was nineteen.
 - a. I have been preaching the Bible now for over 40 years, loving it, praying over it, proving it. Seeing its worth and its power in the lives of men and women, boys and girls.
 - b. I believed it was the Word of God when I began. And I'm more convince today than I ever was.
 - c. I'm not finding hidden flaws. I am finding hidden beauties. Precious book.
 - d. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. Yes, I believe it. Yes, I love it. Yes, I stand on it. And by God's grace, I'm going to preach it till my dying day.