

## Interviews with God

•**I ASK:** *'Is It Unmanly To Be Religious?'*

•**THUS SAITH THE LORD:**

'This book or the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.' Joshua 1:8,9.

•**TO WHICH I RESPOND:** 'I pray, dear Lore, that our boys may be preserved from the foolish notion that only weaklings and women are deeply religious. As they study the records of the past, as they observe the achievements of the present day, may they realize that a mighty host of Thy loyal followers have been manly men, and leaders in all spheres of human activity. Open their eyes to see that millions of men of enterprise and courage are neither ashamed of their religion, nor a shame to it. Amen.'

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## Studies on Bible Texts Found in the Drewes Catechism



### Always Be Students of Luther's Small Catechism

*Dr Luther:* 'This [catechism] is preaching for children, or, the Bible of the laity, which serves the plain people. Whoever, then, does not know these things, and is unable to recite them and understand them, cannot be considered a Christian. It is for this reason, too, that it bears the name catechism, i.e., instruction and Christian teaching, since all Christians at the very least should know this much. Afterward they ought to learn more of the Scriptures. Hence, let all children govern themselves accordingly, and see that they learn it.' (*Historical Introduction to the Book of Concord, Bente, p. 68*)

### The First Commandment

#### TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

We now deal with Question 19 of the Catechism: 'When do we trust God above all things?

The Catechism answers: 'We trust in God above all things when we put our whole confidence in Him and expect help from Him in all trouble.'

The Proof Text for this that we will now study is Prov.3:5 which reads: 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.'

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## CONTEXT

What light does the context shed on this verse? By the Holy Spirit Solomon is emphasizing that if true Christians want Godly wisdom they must first of all meditate on God's Word. Then he stresses the importance of embracing in our hearts the mercy and truth which God reveal to us in the Gospel faith in Christ. This will in turn moves us to show mercy and truth to our neighbour. The Lord then shows the gracious blessings that will come to the believer - prosperity and happiness, loving sympathy and Godly companionship and a good reputation in the sight of God as well as in the sight of Godly and decent people. Then he points out that true wisdom above all comes from 'Trusting in the Lord with all our heart.'

### Study of the Individual Words.

**Trust:** In the Hebrew it means 'to lie helpless, facedown'. It pictures a servant waiting for the master's command in readiness to obey, or a defeated soldier yielding himself to the conquering general. From this it came to mean as it occurs in our text 'to place our whole weight or reliance upon the LORD.'

Based on Rom.10:11; Gal2:16; John 3:18 the Bible describes saving faith as the gracious trust, brought about by the Holy Spirit, in Christ's work of Redemption and in the forgiveness of sins which Christ has obtained for all lost sinners. Dr F. Pieper correctly states: 'Only he who puts his trust in Christ as his Saviour is a believer.'<sup>1</sup>



But when the Bible uses the word trust in regard to God promising the believer temporal gifts, this always presupposes true faith in Christ. Again Dr. F. Pieper beautifully describes this as follows:

'Again, faith which trusts in the divine promise of temporal blessings differs from justifying faith which trusts solely in the promise of the forgiveness of sins. However, trust in God in so far as He promises temporal gifts (e.g. protection against danger and misfortune) always presupposes trust in God's promise of forgiveness. Will a man commit himself even for one night into

the protecting hands of God if he does not believe that God has forgiven his sins? Luther and Chemnitz have written much on this subject. Chemnitz summarizes thus: 'There is indeed a difference between the faith which apprehends Christ and the exercises of faith which are concerned with other objects. But these other exercises of faith always presuppose as their foundation that God has been reconciled by faith and always lead back to the fact, so that faith may be certain and the promise in other matters may be reliable. And this explanation is confirmed by the clear statement of Paul (2 Cor. 1:20): 'All the promises of God in Him are yea and in Him Amen'. Trust in the promise of God concerning temporal matters is therefore in every case the sure sign (signum) that faith in the forgiveness of sins is dwelling in the heart.'<sup>2</sup>

The word 'TRUST' as used here refers to that firm confidence and reliance on the LORD that He will care for, protect and guide His children and that they can with full confidence expect His help in time of every need, flowing from faith in Christ Jesus as their ONLY Saviour.



*in the Lord:* This is the sole object of his trust. The word 'LORD' or is YAHWEH or Jehovah. It is as Pastor Kleinig has stated 'the true Name of God'. It refers to the fact that our unchangeable, eternal God is just when He punishes but He is at the same time gracious and merciful in Christ to forgive and save. He always keeps His promises. He is the absolute Truth. He is the almighty God on whom we can rely with absolute certainty and confidence.

When the Son of God in the burning bush was asked by Moses: 'Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? what shall I say unto them?' he was told: 'I AM THAT I AM': and He said, 'Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel,

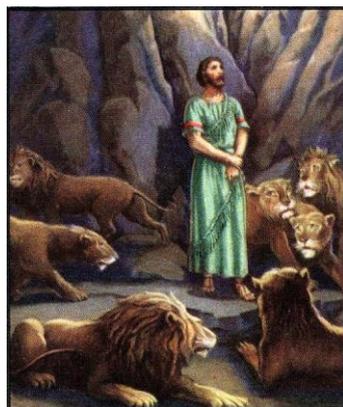
<sup>1</sup> Pieper, F. *Christian Dogmatics* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 426).

<sup>2</sup> Pieper, F. *Christian Dogmatics* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, pp. 449-450).

'I AM ' hath sent me unto you.' And God said moreover unto Moses, 'Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations (Ex. 3:13-15). He is the ONLY true God who can help and there is no-one else who can help as our almighty LORD can. Therefore let us in faith place our complete dependence on Him for everything. We will never be let down.'

### IDOLATRY -TRUST IN OTHER THINGS THAN THE LORD

To trust in other things more than the Lord is idolatry. Some people trust in their own wisdom and understanding more than in God's Word. This happened to the builders of the tower of Babel. Since they wanted to glorify themselves, their plans did not succeed. Others like Goliath trust in their own strength and ability more than God. Pharaoh trusted in his own army and dared to defy God. Both ended in eternal destruction. Others trust in their money and possessions more than God, like the rich man in Luke 12:16-21, but God said: 'Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?'



Let us in childlike faith in Jesus place our trust in the Lord above all things. Even though Goliath was large and strong, David in faith trusted in the Lord to give him the victory. Even though the three friends of Daniel faced the possibility of a fiery death, yet in steadfast faith they trusted that if it was the LORD's will He would deliver them from the fiery furnace. And He did so with His almighty power. Daniel in the power of true fervent faith placed His trust in the LORD when he was thrown into the lion's den for faithfully worshipping the

LORD. The LORD never let him down. The LORD will always look after us if we in faith trust in Him above all things.

*with all thine heart:* The true Christian, nourished by God's Word, is by faith to commit himself entirely to the grace, power and will of the LORD. We are not to despise the help of doctors when we are sick, or if God uses friends to help us when our car breaks down, or if when an enemy attacks we join the armed forces to oppose him, but we are not to trust in earthly things with all our heart. Nor are we to trust in them more than God. Then they become our idol. If it is God's will to use earthly things or friends to rescue us, then we should look upon that as the hand of God using this as a means to help.



Let us not trust in our own wisdom and experience or the wisdom and experience of others in times of danger, but always ask the LORD in prayer for His guidance. Abraham trusted in his own wisdom when he went to Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20) and Joshua did the same when he attacked the little town of Ai (Josh. 7). When we become wise in our own eyes (Prov. 3:7), then we are heading for trouble.

We see how weak our trust in the LORD really is when we experience car accidents, illnesses, serious troubles, loss of money and other difficulties. Often we are like the disciples in their boat on the Sea of Galilee with the water threatening to drown them, yet they forget that they have their almighty Saviour and Lord with them. No wonder He rebukes not only theirs, but also our weakness of faith and trust.

### REMEDY

There is **only one remedy for a weak trust in the LORD** and that is the **Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ and the promises of His Word**. The more we poor sinners meditate on the amazing grace of God revealed in our Saviour's suffering and death for our salvation the more we will want to trust His Word. The more we **learn and in faith rely on His promises** in trial and affliction **the more His Word will strengthen our trust**.

# Helping The Faithful Lutheran Christian In Finding A Godly Life's Partner

## Principles For Finding a Godly Wife Or Husband



I see many Christians destroying themselves in the effort to find a husband or a wife. They wear revealing clothes, even going to nightclubs and hotels. Pain and desperation are driving them to clumsily adopt the ways of the world in finding a life partner. It can only lead to heartache, disappointment and the danger of losing your faith in Christ. I know that you CAN be happy and single and that it is possible to joyful. Marrying a non-Christian should not be a Godly option.

This article covers 12 principles for finding a Godly Christian partner in this rather lonely world.

Work on making yourself the sort of person that a Godly Christian would LIKE to marry. Be kind, reliable, courteous and attractive. Have your life disciplined and Godly and in reasonably good order. Be full of true Christian love which flows from faith in Christ.

Work on and develop your strengths. Have something interesting about you. As a Christian you need to stand out from the crowd a little.

Be Godly yourself. Have a daily quiet time where you read the Bible and pray and start putting Scripture into practice in your life. Go to church regularly to worship God and switch off your 'partner searching periscope' when you go there. In fact switch it off as often as you can. There is something very unattractive about people who are obviously looking for a partner. Godly people want a Godly partner.

Make a success of your career. It will cultivate good qualities in you such as forward thinking, planning, diligence, and hard work and it will increase your self-confidence so that you don't feel as devastated by being single. It will also increase your attractiveness. Godly Christians tend to like people who do their best. Jesus had an obvious soft spot for stewards who did their work diligently and well and makes them the heroes of many of his parables.

Make a list of the qualities you really want in a partner and bring this list to God in prayer. Make it quite specific. Use it as a 'filter' to prevent you going out with people that are completely wrong. When you make the list remember the golden rule 'do unto others as you would want them to do unto you'.

Take their weaknesses seriously. If a person claims to be a Christian but has a problem with drugs, or alcohol or promiscuity or gambling or controlling his temper then be very careful. If they are constantly in financial trouble or always quitting their jobs you may be marrying misery. Things like eating disorders, very low self-esteem, high levels of hostility, and the need to control people can wreak havoc in a marriage.

Marry someone you can pray with, study God's Word with and go to the same church with. Couples that pray together stay together and that's a proven fact. The Christian marriages that fail have one partner that avoids having daily devotionals together. God's Word and Prayer really build deep intimacy into a marriage.

Learn to recognize predators. There are quite a number of people who enter 'friendships', even hang around churches to pick up a 'Christian partner' and who can fake being a Christian with considerable skill. They generally have no intention of being Godly and little intention of marriage. All they are interested in often are sexual conquests. Predators are often betrayed by their lack of true feeling for Christian things and their lack of insight into Scripture. Listen to God's Word. When God says 'No' stop right then and there!

Move steadily and wisely towards commitment and put aside undue suspicion, hostility and distrust of the opposite gender. If you distrust people and are sure they will not stay with you but are 'just using you' then they will flee! No-one will stay in a relationship with a person who distrusts them. However if you treat your partner well and trust, love, and enjoy them for whom they are and expect good things of them then they will enjoy your love so much that they will not think of doing anything else except marrying you! Positive people tend to get positive results and negative people tend to get negative results. .

Build many ordinary good Christian friendships, especially those of the same faith. It takes the pressure off any emerging relationships and also gives you a better understanding of women/men as the case may be.

If you really like someone and they are a good Christian then go for it! I spent a lot of time thinking 'so and so is too good for me' and holding back and thus losing out. Being strong and courageous has many advantages and seems to get God's blessing.

Ask God's blessing on your efforts and listen to Him in His Word. God has a long history of putting some first class romances together. Let Him order your days and they will be pleasant. He really does care! (adapted from an article by John Edmiston).

## Biblical Ways To Live Peacefully With Others

Heb.12:14, *'Follow (Constantly be eagerly seeking) peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.'*

### An Opportunity To Serve

Conflict presents unique opportunities to serve other people. When others are weighed down with problems and stress, God will sometimes use us to encourage them and help carry their burdens. In other situations, we may be able to give helpful advice, provide a positive example, or suggest creative solutions to problems. Best of all, conflict can provide the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ and give witness to the gospel, even to people who are attacking us.

Taken from [\*The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict\*](#) by Ken Sande, p. 143.

### Food for Thought

It seems when we've got many problems and much stress, conflict comes at us faster than ever. Our emotions are intensified and things we may have overlooked now become full blown conflicts. No matter which way we turn, it stares us in the face. While this doesn't provide an excuse to treat others poorly or unfairly, it does provide much opportunity for peacemaking.

The same is true for those around us. There could be circumstances in their lives causing them to respond differently than they normally would. Their burden may be too big for them to carry alone. You just happened to be in the wrong place at the right time. God put you in their path to speak a kind word, offer forgiveness, give advice, or be a listening ear. To put it simply, to serve them. And when we're serving others, our view of a conflict will often change.

Be on the lookout today for special God-given opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ even in the midst of conflict. When you actively model the power of the Gospel, you are making the most of every opportunity to serve other people.

## CHURCH NEWS

Alcohol kills one person every 10 seconds worldwide: WHO By Nina Larson 12 May 2014.

Alcohol kills 3.3 million people worldwide each year, more than AIDS, tuberculosis and violence combined, the World Health Organization said Monday, warning that booze consumption was on the rise. Including drunk driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders, alcohol causes one in 20 deaths globally every year, the UN health agency said. More people in countries where alcohol consumption has traditionally been low, like China and India, are also increasingly taking up the habit as their wealth increases, it said.

Drinking is linked to more than 200 health conditions, including liver cirrhosis and some cancers. Alcohol abuse also makes people more susceptible to infectious diseases like tuberculosis, HIV and pneumonia, the report found.

Most deaths attributed to alcohol, around a third, are caused by associated cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Alcohol-related accidents, such as car crashes, were the second-highest killer, accounting for around 17.1 percent of all alcohol-related deaths. Binge drinking is especially damaging to health, the WHO pointed out, estimating that 16 percent of the world's drinkers abuse alcohol to excess.

Drinking in populous China and India is rising particularly fast as people earn more money, the WHO said, warning that the average annual intake in China was likely to swell by 1.5 litres of pure alcohol by 2025. Still, Eastern Europe and Russia are home to the world's biggest drinkers. Counting only those who drink though, that rises to 17 litres of pure alcohol each year.

## The Rise Of Anti-Christianity In The West

‘There is now a serious risk that Christianity will disappear from its Biblical heartlands,’ said a report by think-tank Civitas about persecution of Christians in the Middle East. Ample evidence suggests there are those who would like Christianity to vanish from the West as well. In fact, as the growing movement to stifle free speech and expression reveals, Western culture would like to get rid of the pesky voice of Biblical Christianity altogether.

Some nations suppress Christians, their beliefs and messages violently. Current Western culture, however, has its own style of trying to silence the real church. It follows a specific sequence, which has accelerated in recent years.

‘The chain moves from caricaturization to marginalization to vilification to villainization to criminalization to elimination.

One of the easiest ways to discredit someone, an institution, movement, or idea is to caricature it by making the subject look comical or grotesque. The other style of caricaturization comes from spite, anger, and hatred – like those the Washington Post's Herblock drew of Richard Nixon (Herblock's most vicious was probably a cartoon of Chuck Colson just after he had become a Christian).

I witnessed the launch of the age of marginalization as a reporter for a large daily newspaper in the 1960s. The anti-establishmentarians who became the present establishment pontificated widely on the unimportance of Biblical Christianity. From that beginning, marginalization went on to become public policy as the church was sequestered behind a bigger and bigger ‘wall of separation’ that fenced out the wrong culprit: a regime that might want to create its own religious establishment, or one whose godless policies would cause it to throttle the church.

Vilification easily follows from marginalization. To vilify is to defame and slander. The goal is to shrink respect for the person, movement, institution, or idea being vilified. Marginalization says the person, movement, institution, or idea deserves only a minimal and peripheral role in culture. But vilification suggests there really should be no role at all for the vilified subject. It has nothing to contribute to the great societal conversation, not even from the cultural boondocks.

Now the danger mounts and the possibility of persecution looms. What has been merely caricatured, marginalized, and vilified is now villainized. That pesky person, movement, institution, or idea is no longer to be scorned merely, but feared. It's the bad boy on the cultural street, ready to trip or assault the noble civilization-builders and freedom-defenders who gallantly march by.

At this point, there's not enough evidence to send an armed team to get the villains off the street. But the cultural SWAT team is standing by.

## CAN WE PROVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE? SEVEN COMPELLING EVIDENCES CONFIRM THE BIBLE IS TRUE

This article was Adapted from <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/seven-compelling-evidences-confirm-bible-is-true>. It will be the first in a series titled: ‘[Seven Compelling Evidences Confirm the Bible Is True](#).’

With all the knowledge and resources readily available today, God’s children have no excuse for not being prepared to ‘be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.’ ([1 Peter 3:15](#)).

First and foremost, we can know what the Bible says about itself (‘internal evidences’), and then we can learn the most compelling corroborating evidences that confirm its claims (‘external evidences’).

[Seven Compelling Evidences Confirm the Bible Is True: 1.God’s Character; 2.Claims of Divine Authorship; 3.Unity of the Bible; 4.Fulfilled Prophecy; 5.Scientific Accuracy; 6.Archaeological Finds; 7. Life-Changing Power;](#)

### 1. God’s Character

If, through faith, we believe in Jesus as our Saviour, we can turn to the Bible, trusting its authority in every area. The Bible is our highest authority, as it is the written Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible Itself teaches us how to defend its own truthfulness.

We will discover that we can appeal to no greater authority than God Himself. If we had to appeal to another authority to prove what God said, then God wouldn't be our ultimate authority.

How can we help people believe that the Bible is true? It is not first and foremost by scientific, archaeological, or historical evidences, important though these may be in their proper place. It is not even by fulfilled prophecy! It is by sharing with others—based on our own knowledge of Scripture—the matchless character of the God who ultimately wrote the Bible.

### **1 Peter 3:13-16:**

And who is he that will harm you if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled, but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evil-doers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

*Kretzmann:* 'The Christians may sometimes have to bear evil for a season, but in reality all things work together for good to them: Who will do you wrong if you are zealous for that which is good? If the Christians at all times are zealous for that which is right and good, if they have a veritable passion for that which has the approval of the Lord, then nothing can really work lasting harm in their case, for they are under God's care and protection. The only things which really will hurt us, in time and in eternity, are disobedience, deviation from God's Word. But no enemy can take away from us the true, eternal blessings: God's grace and mercy, forgiveness of sins, righteousness, peace with God, joy in the Holy Ghost.

'And should God permit some evil to strike us, the apostle again has a word of comfort: And even if you should suffer on account of righteousness, yet you are blessed. That is true enough, he means to say, it does happen that the malice of your enemies will reach a point where the very fact of your leading a blameless life will act as a spur to their hostile attitude, increase their bitterness, and make them all the more determined to harm you, to cause you suffering. But what of that? In the very midst of such sufferings the Christians are to be congratulated, for the blessing of the Lord rests upon them, and they are truly happy, Matt. 5, 10. 11.

'It follows, then: But their fear do not fear, neither be disturbed; but the Lord Christ sanctify in your hearts, always ready with a reply to every one who demands an account of you concerning the hope which is in you. It appears throughout the discussion that the conduct of the Christians in persecutions is not a matter of indifference, but is carefully regulated by the will of the Lord. This the apostle shows in a passage from the Old Testament, Is. 8, 12. 13. The enemies of Christ and of the believers will often resort to threats, in order to create fear in the hearts of the Christians, backing them up by such acts of meanness as to make life almost unbearable in certain instances.

'And yet the Christians should not let themselves be disturbed or filled with fear. It is true, their enemies can do much harm, they can even, with God's permission, take the life of the believers, Matt. 10, 28, but they must fall back in helpless anger before their inability to harm the soul, so long as the Christians cling to their allegiance, so long as they sanctify, hallow, Christ in their hearts as their Lord and Master, put their trust in Him and wait for Him to repay at His time.

'In the mean time they will also not overlook the necessity of confessing their Lord, of being ready with a proper reply for any one that may demand an account of them concerning the hope of their faith. This does not mean that every frivolous scoffer may make the Christians the butt of his untimely jokes; for that would be throwing pearls before the swine. What the Lord wants us to do is to be ready with an exposition of our hope of salvation and particularly of our expectation of the second coming of Christ in the case of every person that shows a real interest in the Christian doctrine as we profess it. Whether this be a genuine searching for the truth or a mere curiosity, it may pave the way for a proclamation of the Gospel that may save a soul. Such a testimony concerning Christ, as the apostle writes, must always be made in meekness and in fear. All personal bitterness must be put aside, a holy reverence for the Word of God must fill the heart, for it is the honour of the Lord which is at stake.'

To 'sanctify the Lord God' as the nation of Israel had been taught for centuries, was to set Him apart from all other 'gods'. It meant to honour Him supremely, to think and act in the light of His glory.

What does this have to do with knowing that the Bible is true?

Our main role is to honour the Author of the Bible by our own lives and words. Through our Bible-enriched words and our changed lives, we give evidence of the truth of the One who inspired the Bible and says it is ‘living and powerful’ ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). If our individual lives do not exhibit Jesus’ transforming power, why should anyone believe that His words had the power to create the universe?

It is when the sinner appreciates, not just God’s truthfulness but all of His qualities and attributes, that he is convinced about the truth of the Bible. In fact, one of the most profound character traits of the Author of the Bible—love—is critical when we can testify about Him.

God’s unique self-sacrificial love (‘agape’ in the original Greek) is unlike any love we experience in normal life. This love comes from God, and He wants sinners to see it in His followers, as part of our effective witness. ‘Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love.’

Whenever God’s love is reflected through a believer’s life and words, unbelievers will recognize something genuinely divine. They will sense that the God of Scripture is real, and they will be convicted about the truth and power of His Word. Here is the way our Lord explained it: ‘A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.’ ([John 13:34–35](#)).

How does this work in practice? When unbelievers living in spiritual darkness observe God’s self-sacrificial love at work, they will be deeply affected by seeing something they have never experienced. A powerful example is a loving relationship between a Christian man and his wife, and between Christian parents and their children. Another example is the deep love displayed within a local church

This love cannot be explained or experienced apart from the true and living God, who created every human being with a mind, a soul, and a conscience that can know Him and see Him in His Word.

God’s love compels us to go out and share the truth about salvation. As we ‘sanctify the Lord in our hearts, ‘ the Holy Spirit will then use our lives and words—spoken ‘with meekness and fear ‘—to convince sinners about the truth of His Word.

The bottom line: God Himself vindicates His Word as people see Him honoured in His Word and in the lives of His children. To prove that truth of the Word of God, it is vital that this same truth be on display in our own lives. Though we, as Christians, must daily still fight the sin that clings to us, if unbelievers can see the love of God reigning in our lives, this is the most powerful evidence of the truth of God’s Word.

## 2. Claims of Divine Authorship

Not just the Bible’s authors but Jesus Christ Himself claimed that the Bible was God’s Word. Jesus tied His own life and reputation to that claim. So either He is God and His Word is flawless or both Christ and His Word are false.

Over 3,000 times, in some form or another, the Bible’s authors claimed to be speaking for God. With phrases like ‘the Word of God’ and the ‘Word of the Lord’ they indicated that they believed their words were of divine origin.

The Bible claims to be God’s Word and absolutely true, like its divine author. ‘God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?’ ([Numbers 23:19](#)).

This claim forces every human on the planet to make a choice. There is no neutral ground. Will people believe God’s words or reject them? If we faithfully share the claims of His Word, the Holy Spirit will use His Word to convict the world of sin and rebellion against God

God knew that false prophets would also claim to speak for Him, so He placed a death penalty if their words did not come true ([Deuteronomy 13:5](#))! For a prophet to stand up and claim that he was delivering a message from the Lord was foolish unless he was convinced that what he spoke was truly from God. Yet we find over and over the authors of Scripture claiming that their words were of divine origin. David, for example, said, ‘The spirit of the Lord spake by me and His Word was in my tongue.’ ([2 Samuel 23:2](#)).

The Bible’s forty authors were of proven sincerity and sanity. And they were willing to go to their deaths if their words proved to be false. We also find many authors of Scripture verifying each other’s writings as God’s Word. Shortly after Jeremiah wrote his book, for example, Daniel recognized what Jeremiah wrote was the ‘word of the Lord’ ([Daniel 9:2](#)):

v. 2. in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by books, the number of the years whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, the prophet, (cp. Jer. 25, 11), that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem

Note that Daniel was in possession of a book of Jeremiah's prophecies, which, therefore, must have been in existence in a number of copies even then, that he considered the words of this book as the Word of Jehovah, and that he definitely believed the words of the prophecy, as the words of the Lord, would be fulfilled. Later in the New Testament, the apostle Paul quoted the Gospel of Luke as 'Scripture', on par with the inspired writings of Moses ([1 Timothy 5:18](#), citing both [Deuteronomy 25:4](#) and [Luke 10:7](#)).

The apostle Peter claimed inspiration for the entire Old Testament ( 'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, ' [2 Peter 1:21](#)). He also equated Paul's epistles with 'the rest of the Scriptures ' ([2 Peter 3:16-17](#)).

The most powerful evidence of the Bible being divinely given comes from Jesus Christ's own life and statements about the Bible. Referring to King David in [Mark 12:36](#), for example, Jesus said, 'For David himself said by the Holy Spirit, ' and then Jesus cited [Psalm 110:1](#).

Christ quoted the Old Testament repeatedly, including its accounts of dozens of miracles and historical events. He considered all its history to be true, including Noah ([Luke 17:27](#)), Moses ([John 5:46](#)), Jonah ([Matthew 12:40](#)), and all the other prophets from Abel to Zechariah ([Luke 11:49-51](#)).

When He spoke of the Scriptures being true 'to the smallest letter ' (Matthew 5:18), Jesus put His person and character on the line. In fact, Jesus said that all He did was done to fulfil the Scriptures. He lived and died by them, as the perfect expression of His Father's will. 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ' (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus' life and ministry were in complete fulfilment of what the Scriptures said! There can be no stronger statement than for Jesus to claim that the Bible was God-inspired. Claiming to be God Himself, He said the Scriptures were given to show and verify Who He is. The Bible thus confirms Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ confirms the Bible. You can appeal to no higher authority than Him.

The authors of the Holy Bible claim it is from a holy God; so we can—we must—trust that it is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, and true.

## Jesus Submitted to the Bible's Authority

Jesus Christ not only believed the Bible, He lived His entire life—and went to the Cross—in obedience to it. He said, 'Think not that I am come to destroy the Law and the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.' ([Matthew 5:17](#)).

Jesus obeyed the Bible, not as the fallible word and will of man but as the Word—and express will—of God His Father (see [John 5:30](#)). He relied on the Bible (and no other book) as His authority for life.

When Satan tempted Christ to act contrary to God's Word, He rebuked Satan and exalted the Scriptures as God's words, ([Matthew 4:4](#)). This response to Satan was, in fact, a direct quote from the Law ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#)).

Here are four other key statements that Christ made about the Scriptures and the folly of not believing all it says:

'Thy Word is truth ' ([John 17:17](#)).

'The Scripture cannot be broken ' ([John 10:35](#)).

'And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the Law to fail. ' ([Luke 16:17](#)).

'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ' ([Luke 24:25](#)).

If Christ submitted to Scripture and lived His life under its authority, then we are faced with a stark choice. Either we believe Christ and embrace the entire Bible as our own absolute authority, or we reject both Christ and the Bible as imposters. The authority of one is inextricably bound up with the other.

Jesus lived and died by His claims to be the fulfilment of Scripture. If His claims were false, it would have been easy for the Jews of His day to reprove Him and to destroy the faith of the early Christians. Yet the power of Jesus' Words was constantly exhibited in His own life, and in the lives of His followers. Jesus alone claimed to be 'The Way, the Truth, and the Life', a bold claim mutually excluding all other religions. Either Jesus was mad, or His Words are the Truth, by which no man come to the Father except by Him. He constantly appealed to the authority of the Scriptures, which though written thousands of years beforehand spoke of Him. The Scriptures were fulfilled in Christ, the

Scriptures have proven themselves over and over again without fail. We can accept Jesus' testimony the Scriptures are true.



