



# Foundations of Faith

*The foundational truths of the Christian faith; calling us to walk as disciples of Jesus and live with a mission*

## Session 1 - Introduction and The Bible

### How we know God

#### *God has revealed himself*

#### I. General Revelation

God has revealed to us things about himself and what he is like. He has done this for all people, at all times in all places. This is the general knowledge and proof of God's existence.

1. Look \_\_\_\_\_: our internal sense of morality and conscience.

*Eccl. 3:11; Rom. 1:32; 2:14-15*

2. Look \_\_\_\_\_: The beauty and intelligent design of the natural world, his creation. *Job 38:1-4; Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-21; Acts 17:24-31*

#### **Limitations**

Though we may collect all sorts of information and give a strong argument for God's existence—salvation must come through special revelation.

#### **Strengths**

Knowledge of God's existence, his nature and his power is equally available to all people of all times. We get an idea of what God must be like.

#### II. Special Revelation

This is God's solution to man's predicament, our need for redemption by him and a relationship with him. God's redemptive plan was revealed in a progressive manner as he unfolded special revelations of himself throughout time, leading up to the pinnacle of the Revelation of God, Jesus Christ. *Jn. 1:18; Heb. 1:3*

1. Various special revelations of God in the past: Direct communication between God and man, angels as messengers, prophets, dreams, etc. *Heb. 1:1-3*
2. The Bible: God's special revelation, written down over a period of some 1,600 years, it is fully inspired by God to the extent that the very words of the Bible are out-breathed by God through men. *II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20,21*
3. Jesus Christ: He is the eternal Word of God who "became flesh and lived among us." He is the ultimate of all divine revelation; God in the person of Jesus Christ, true God and true man who dwelled in our midst and made God known to man. *Jn. 1:1-3; 14,18*



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### The Bible

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful; for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*  
*II Tim. 3:16,17*

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Ps. 119:105*

#### I. The Source of the Bible

Nobody would know the truth about God or relate to him in a personal way if God had not first acted to make himself known. Scripture is the written record of this revelation from God—the truth of what God did progressively in the history of Israel, pointing to the promised Messiah (the Christ), Jesus of Nazareth, and the additional truth for the church revealed by the Holy Spirit as he directed the apostles.

1. Scripture is from God and consists of his wisdom and truth.
2. Importance of revelation.

#### II. The Inspiration of the Bible

The Bible was written by over forty authors from vastly different backgrounds and cultures over a period of 1,600 years, yet this collection of letters, sermons, poems, and narratives demonstrates a single theme: God’s love for humanity, shown ultimately in the atonement by Jesus.

Why does the Bible have such a harmonious theme and single purpose?

Because the words of the Bible were given by God to the writers.

- God is the source of this revelation. *Deut. 29:29*
- Christ is the central theme of the Bible. *Jn. 5:38*
- The Holy Spirit is the divine author of the Scripture. *II Pet. 1:20,21*
- God chose to preserve his revelation in Scripture. *II Tim. 3:16; Mt. 4:4*

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures. *I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 3:7*  
Every word is from God. The Bible is “living words” from God.  
Implication: Based on God’s nature, the Scriptures are completely accurate and authoritative since God is incapable of error. *I Cor. 2:13*
2. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the writers.  
This “inspiration” does not have the same meaning as when we talk about the “enthusiasm” or “brilliance” of an artist or athlete. It is supernatural.
3. Inspiration also incorporates the personalities of the writers in the final product. The Bible was not “dictated” by God to man.



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4. Inspiration means that the words were placed in the Bible by God.  
Every word is from God. *Heb. 4:13; Mt. 4:4; Mt. 5:17,18; Gal. 3:16*

### III. The Authority of the Bible

The Bible is the expression of God's will to us. It possesses the right to supremely define what we are to believe and how we are to live. In society today, authority is often questioned and even resisted.

1. God's revealed will for our lives. *Deut. 29:29*
2. Spiritual illumination is one of the distinguishing marks of being a Christian—as he who is in us teaches us. *1 Cor. 2:12-16; Jn. 16:13,14*
3. Scripture is our “measuring rod” for wisdom and truth. *Jn. 17:17; Acts 17:11*
4. Illumination is dependent upon our right relation with God. *Ps. 119:33*
  - What does Authority mean for us?  
In a word, we should respond with \_\_\_\_\_.

### *In Summary*

- ✓ God has not hidden himself from us.
- ✓ When you read the Word of God, God speaks to you!
- ✓ We should make it a priority to learn what God wants to tell us through the Bible, so that we know what it teaches.
- ✓ We have a standard of truth by which to examine man's theories.
- ✓ We can have confidence in promises that the Bible affirms.
- ✓ We should use it as the standard for living our lives.
- ✓ The Bible is not a god to be worshipped, but it is God's message to be obeyed.