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# *Why I Believe The Bible Is The Word of God*

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by  
*Nick Hamilton*

FOY E. WALLACE, a few years ago, said, “The problem we are facing with ‘second generation’ Christians quitting the church is *they never developed their own faith.*”

Timothy was a “third generation” believer (2 Timothy 1:5). Faithful Christian parents are a blessing, and can be the source of strong, vibrant faith, when we see in them hearts which are in harmony with the teachings of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:14, 15).

The Bible claims to be the *inspired revelation* of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21). Such phrases as “and God said,” “thus saith the Lord,” or “the Lord God spake unto him saying,” occur over twenty-five hundred times in the Old Testament alone!

Paul commended the Christians at Thessalonica for receiving his word “not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). *Revelation* and *inspiration* according to 1 Corinthians 2:13 are not the same! Paul refers to revelation when he says, “Which things also we speak.” Revelation is communication directly from God to man of knowledge and truth not previously known. He

refers to inspiration when he says, “Not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit.” Inspiration is words given by God to express His truth. The Bible is (verbally) inspired! (2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 1:9).

It is possible to have revelation without inspiration. We see revelation without inspiration in Acts 5:1-11 when God dealt with Ananias and Sapphira. We see inspiration without revelation in Luke 1:1-4. The Bible combines both—it is “revelation plus inspiration.” Jesus promised the apostles that they would receive the Holy Spirit who would show them “how” and “what” to speak (Matthew 10:19, 20). That is the combination of “spiritual things with spiritual words.” I do not understand all the mysteries of inspiration, or how God accomplished it, but such is not necessary to believe in the Bible as an inspired revelation. Yet, we can see somewhat how it worked.

If it all came from God through the Holy Spirit, it is natural to assume that we will find characteristics in this book that are in no other book. Such are reasons for believing the Bible to be God’s Word.

## **I. BECAUSE OF ITS UNITY AND HARMONY**

Actually, the Bible is not one book—it is a library of books. It was written by forty men living over a sixteen-hundred-year span—from Moses to John! They lived in six different countries and wrote in three different languages. It is possible some did not even know others. Some were rich, some poor. Some were on thrones, some in prisons. Some were shepherds; others were fishermen, kings, etc. Yet, when they had finished and their works were collected, it was free from any real contradictions.

Suppose forty sculptors, over a period of sixteen hundred years, who were from different countries and did not speak the same language, and did not even know each other, worked on a statue. What are the possibilities that the pieces, when they were collected and put together, would perfectly fit?

## **II. BECAUSE OF ITS UNIVERSALITY**

Men of all walks of life followed Jesus: the wealthy and influential (Luke 19:1-10) and the common people (Mark 12:37), the religious (John 3:1-13) and the nonreligious (Luke 15:1-2), etc.

Men, of all nations followed Him. Paul said,

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him (Romans 10:12).

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built upon the foundation

of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:11-22).

This shows that men of all languages accept Him. Today in our assemblies we have wealthy and not so wealthy, employers and employees, labor and management, educated and uneducated, old and young, men and women, different nationalities and different mother tongues. The gospel’s appeal is universal (John 12:32).

## **III. BECAUSE OF ITS TIMELINESS**

Human knowledge is constantly advancing, ever growing. Some statistics indicate that it doubles every ten years. One-half of all scientists who have ever lived are alive today. Textbooks are outdated by the time they leave the press. This means that we often have to revise ourselves. What we know as truth today may be false tomorrow! But the Bible never needs revising. It is as timely today as the day it was written; as accurate as in any age (1 Peter 1:23-25).

## **IV. BECAUSE OF ITS CONTENT**

Think of the vastness of its contents—God, Christ, creation, salvation, etc.! Consider the originality of these subjects. These lofty themes were written at a time when uninspired men wrote such stuff as the earth resting on the back of a giant turtle! If the Bible is the product of mere man, why has he not written a better one? He has more knowledge, more experience, but he cannot!

The restraint of the Bible is also convincing. Look at the brevity of the books. Remember: these writers were burdened with a theme which, in their own estimation, would determine the, eternal well-being of the entire world. They were overwhelmed with an abundance of material (John 21:25) and to leave out important information might have caused entire segments of creation to be forever lost! They set forth to prove the greatest hypothesis of all time—that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. And they did it in four short books! What man, writing a biography of the world’s greatest man, would go about it as they did? They gave scanty details of His birth—only two of the four Gospels deal with it. Only thir-

teen verses describe the next thirty years. As to His public ministry, they record events occurring in less than sixty days. Nearly one-fourth of the total information speaks of His last week before His death. In the Library of Congress there are more than ten thousand volumes on His life!

Think of the brevity of single incidents. All the events associated with His baptism are pressed into twelve lines of writing. One of the Gospel writers only alludes to it. The grandeur and glory of the transfiguration is put in five verses. The record of the resurrection, the event above all others they felt compelled to record, is covered briefly. Of the twelve appearances of Christ after His death, Matthew records two, Mark and Luke three, and John four. The death of James, the first apostle to die for the cause of Christ, is recorded in *seven words*.

The omission of events also catches our attention. How could John, having seen the glory of transfiguration and the agony of Gethsemane, omit them? But he did. Jesus' words as He wrote on the ground are omitted (John 8:1-8). What did He write? Why did they omit them? No conver-

sation with Lazarus after his return from death is recorded (John 11). The Bible does not deal in idle curiosity!

#### **V. BECAUSE IT IS IMPARTIAL**

It speaks of the faults of friends and the virtues of enemies with equal calmness. It tells of the good of King David, but it also records his sin—and does not assign a motive to make him look better! It records Peter's denial with as much fullness as Judas' betrayal. No apology is given for Peter, no reproof is given for Judas. What man could be that impartial when so emotionally involved in his subject? It does not give its law according to the dictates of man's desires. It condemns the sins man enjoys most. It requires of man that he perform duties which he may even find distasteful.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Two truths are clear: Man could not write a book like the Bible if he would, and he would not write it if he could. I have an idea that the best way for you to convince yourself that the Bible is God's Word is to *read it*.

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