

(Rom 10:17)

1 Cor 15:12-20

Phil 1:6

1. How do we know what we know?

a. Rom 10:17

Rom 8:23-24

Heb 11:1

Rom 1:16-17

2. Does that mean we can't trust the bible without proof? Or rather, how do we know the bible is true?

John 1:14

2 Tim 3:16

1 John 5:14

Mark 4:10-12

2 Pet 1:21

John 17:17

3. How do we know the God of the Bible is true?

Jas 1:25

2 Pet 1:20-21

2 Pet 3:16

John 14:6

Closing Hymn: [How Firm A Foundation](#)



1 Corinthians 3:11
For other foundation
can no man lay than
that is laid, which is
Jesus Christ.

Intro: Our issue this morning is one of tremendous import, it is a cornerstone of our faith. This Pentecost Sunday, as we remember the events surrounding the group of believers whose explosive faith changed the world so many years ago with tongues of fire, I am reminded that the basis of our faith is the inerrancy of the scriptures. After all, (Rom 10:17) “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” But is the Bible you hold today the word of God? How can we know the word of God when we hear Him? Recently I have been reading R.C. Sproul’s *The Holiness of God* and *Knowing Scripture*, both of which I highly recommend. I have a section of *Knowing Scripture* which I would like to read to you by way of introduction.

The Bible is not written in “Holy Spirit Greek.” Inspiration never meant for Protestant orthodoxy that the Spirit “dictated” the words and the “style” of the human authors. Nor were the authors viewed as machinelike automatons totally passive to the Spirit’s operation. Nor did inerrancy mean to preclude grammatical errors. Inerrancy is used to indicate the “utter truthfulness” of the Scripture. When Luther says the Scriptures never err, he means that they never err with respect to the truth of what they are proclaiming. We can see this in the American jury system with reference to the crime of perjury. If an innocent man is asked about his guilt on the witness stand and he replies, “I ain’t killed nobody no time,” he cannot be charged with perjury because he used bad grammar to state his case.

The meaning here is obvious, God’s word is indeed perfect, but as you have probably heard before – He uses broken tools. Was the word of God on the lips of an angry Moses any less true? No, but Moses had to account for his mishandling of the word of God when he acted beyond what God intended. Sometimes those who forthtell the word of God make simpler errors; diction, grammar, spelling. We cannot discount the inerrancy of God’s word because of the shortcomings of its human scribes and readers.

Sermon: Foundations of the Faith: What is Confidence?

No amount of facts, no number of truths, can help you or I through real world problems if they are not germane to the situation. Some of you may know this, but I joke around that I am the “king of random facts.” Not useful facts mind you, just random ones. Want to know the location of the world’s oldest living plant? I’m your man. Want help changing the oil in your car? I might need to call my dad for help.

Isn’t it funny how dads always seem to have the right knowledge? They may not know everything, but they sure know all the good stuff, right? You see, dads know what works to fix what hurts. Dads make things better, it’s kinda in the job description. Today is Pentecost Sunday – and I want you all to remember that knowing more truths is not the answer, but knowing the Truth, knowing our father, lets us call in favors when we need something useful.

The big question a lot of people seem to fight, whether they have doubts about God existing or not, is “how do I know that what I know is true?”

As Christians, there are a lot of things we need to know are true, things we need to have faith on. A major one of these we have been looking at recently, right? The resurrection. 1 Cor 15:12-20

We have confidence in the resurrection of Christ, because it is necessary in order to believe the promises of God. Phil 1:6 tells us to be confident that not only can we be raised, but that God will continue to work on us in the meantime. There are many such promises in the scriptures. All of these promises have one thing in common – in order to believe that they are true, one must believe that the God of the Bible is real, that He spoke truly, and that the scriptures we have today are His words.

Those are some big claims! Can we back them up? Is the bible accurate? Is it God's word?

1. How do we know what we know?
 - a. Rom 10:17, it is the word that gives us faith. Assuming scripture is correct, this would mean that you cannot have a life changing faith, a living faith, without contact with the word of God.
 - b. Rom 8:23-24, faith is not to be confused with hope; hope means belief, faith means action.
 - c. Heb 11:1, faith is action based on hope. I hope the rope will hold me, but I don't have faith on the rope till I'm hanging from it. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - d. So we know what we know because we hear it in God's word. We hope it is true, we act on it (through faith, aaaand? Tada! It proves itself true. Thus we know that it is true. We move from faith to faith, yes? Rom 1:16-17
2. Does that mean we can't trust the Bible without proof? Or rather, how do we know the Bible is true?
 - a. John 1:14, the Word is alive. 2 Tim 3:16, it was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and so it is alive. 1 John 5:14, we have confidence (through scriptural promises) that God hears us when we pray – so how do we hear him?
 - b. That's right! We read scripture, and He talks to us through the Bible. The Holy Spirit exposes to us the meaning of the word, Mark 4:10-12, 2 Pet 1:21
 - c. We don't put our faith in a mystical idea of a perfect book authored by a heavenly hand, dropped to earth with a shattering boom and choirs of angels. We understand that men wrote the Bible, but that they wrote the divinely inspired words of God, John 17:17.
3. How do we know the God of the Bible is true?
 - a. We know because we have the Holy Spirit in us, convicting us of sin. How are we convicted? By scripture, Jas 1:25.
 - b. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives that makes us able to understand and interpret the scriptures properly. But even now we cannot be prideful, but must be willing to listen to others (really listen!) and change if we are wrong, 2 Pet 1:20-21. No private interpretations! 2 Pet 3:16.
 - c. We cannot know all truths – but we can know The Truth, John 14:6.

Closing Hymn: How firm a Foundation!

