



## Statement of Faith

**The Bible** – The Bible is the Word of God. The Holy Scriptures are inspired by God, (God breathed), not only in the general sense, but in every word. The Bible is without error and infallible as originally given. Being the written revelation of God, it is the divine, final and complete authority in all matters pertaining to mankind, salvation, and the church. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:3-4,19-21, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Hebrews 4:12-13, Zech 7:12)

### 1. **The Bible is the Word of God.**

Here we affirm the testimony of every truly born-again Christian. Because of the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, we understand the bible to be the very Word of God. Grudem – *“Our ultimate conviction that the words of the bible are God’s words comes only when the Holy Spirit speaks in and through the words of the bible to our hearts and gives us the inner assurance that these are the words of our creator speaking to us.”* Of course this is because the bible is God’s very words. This inner assurance can only come about for a truly born again Christian who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 2:14) The natural man cannot and does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God.

The bible certainly claims to be the Word of God.

**1 Thess 2:13 -13** And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but **for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Frequently the bible records the very words of God Himself.

**Ex 5:1 - 5:1** And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "**Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel**, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'"

**1 Sam 15:2-3 - 2** **Thus says the LORD of hosts**, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. NASB

**2 Sam 7:4-6 - 4** But it came about in the same night that **the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying**, 5 "Go and say to My servant David, **'Thus says the LORD**," Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? NASB

Both the Old and New Testaments make claims to be the very Word of God.

Writers in scripture frequently refer to scripture as God’s very words.

**Matthew 1:22-23 - 22** Now all this took place that what **was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled**, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." NASB

**Matthew 4:4 - 4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God**.'" NASB

**Acts 1:16,20 - 16** "Brethren, **the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David** concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no man dwell in it'; and, 'His office let another man take.' NASB

**2. The Holy Scriptures are inspired by God, (God breathed), not only in the general sense, but in every word.**

The bible is inspired in two ways. Both verbally and plenary.

**Verbal and plenary** are terms used to define what we mean by inspiration.

**Verbal** means that every word in the original language is inspired by God.

**Plenary** means that the totality of scripture is inspired including its concepts, numbers, names, and every part of the scripture.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** - 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NASB

Here we see an example of the New Testament's claim that all the words of the Old Testament scriptures are God's words. **When referring to "Scripture", the writer refers to the "entire Old Testament."**

The word for "scriptures" used here – "*graphe*" is used in 50 other places in the NT and always refer to the Old Testament scriptures. The greek for the word inspired is "*theopneustos*" – "breathed out by God." We understand then the Old Testament to be considered by the apostles as God's Word. Further, the NT makes reference to itself as the words of scripture.

**2 Peter 3:14-16** - 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also **our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also **in all his letters**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, **as they do also the rest of the Scriptures**, to their own destruction. NASB

Here Peter refers to the writings of Paul as the "scriptures." gk – "*graphas*"

Another example would be where Paul refers to the words of Luke 10:7 and calls them "the scripture";

**1 Tim 5:18** - 18 For **the Scripture says**, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." NASB

Therefore the scripture is inspired by God, in every word. It follows then that all the concepts, numbers, names, and every part of the scripture are inspired by God.

**3. The Bible is without error and infallible as originally given.**

**Inerrancy** – *Scripture in its original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. The bible always tells the truth and that it always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about.*

It has been clearly pointed out thus far that the bible is the Word of God. It should be noted at this point that, being the very words of God, this implies several things about the nature of Scripture.

- God cannot lie or speak falsely – (2 Sam 7:28, Tit 1:2)  
**Numbers 23:19** - 19 "**God is not a man, that He should lie**, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? NASB
- God's words are the ultimate standard of truth, the very words are truth itself – (Psalm 12:6)  
**John 17:17** - 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; **Thy word is truth**. NASB
- The words of scripture are completely true and without error  
**Psalms 119:160** - 60 The **sum of Thy word is truth**, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting. NASB

Therefore, when we speak of inerrancy and infallibility, we speak of the truthfulness of scripture. Grudem – *“No new fact will ever be discovered that will contradict the bible. This will never happen, it is in fact impossible. If any supposed fact is ever discovered that is said to contradict the Scripture, then that fact must be false, because God, the author of scripture knows all true facts(past, present, future). No fact will turn up that God did not know about ages ago and take into account when He caused scripture to be written.”*

#### 4. Being the written revelation of God,

The scripture then in its entirety is the revelation of God to man about what is true. It includes true information about our existence and destinies which we could have never known by any other means.

**Deut 29:29** – 29 "The **secret things belong to the LORD** our God, but **the things revealed belong to us** and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. NASB

It obviously follows then that God has revealed specific information to us that He intends for us to hear, know and understand. This information called the scripture then is therefore **authoritative**, being the standard for truth, by which our lives must be governed.

**Hebrews 4:12** - 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and **piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. NASB

#### 5. It is the divine, final and complete authority in all matters pertaining to mankind, to salvation, and to the church

Consider then, *“to disbelieve or disobey any word in scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”* The scripture is **authoritative** as it is God’s very words, the specific words which he chose to reveal to be our authority and govern our lives.

**2 Peter 1:19-21** - 19 And so we **have the prophetic word made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God**. NASB

In the Scripture, God calls us to obedience to His Word. Even God Himself has called His Word the highest authority.

**Psalms 138:2** - 2 I will bow down toward Thy holy temple, And give thanks to Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth; **For Thou hast magnified Thy word according to all Thy name**. NASB

He has said that we will be accountable to him for the words which He has spoken to us.

**John 12:48** - 48 "He who rejects Me, and **does not receive My sayings**, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day**. NASB

There is no one who is not accountable to the Word of God, it applies to every person, which includes all mankind. (Rom 3:19-20)

**Ecc 12:13-14** - 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. NASB

**The Bible is Necessary** – The bible therefore is necessary for our lives for at least three reasons:

**1. The bible is necessary for a knowledge of the Gospel**

Scripture is necessary for a true knowledge of the Gospel in order for man to be saved from sin and death. Without this knowledge of the Gospel, man cannot be reconciled to God.

**Romans 10:13-17** - 13 for "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? **And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?** And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, " Lord, who has believed our report? " 17 So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.** NASB

**2. The bible is necessary for maintaining spiritual life**

Scripture is necessary for the daily maintenance of our spiritual life.

**Matthew 4:4** - 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, **but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**'" NASB

To neglect the regular reading of God's Word is as detrimental to our spiritual health as the neglect of physical food is to the health of our bodies.

**1 Peter 2:2** - 2 like newborn babes, long for **the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,** NASB

**3. The bible is necessary for certain knowledge of God's will**

In the bible we have clear and definite statements of God's will. If we are to know what God expects of us, it is imperative that we know what He has said to us in His Word!

**Romans 12:2** - 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.** NASB

**The Bible is Sufficient** – The bible is sufficient to address every matter in life. If it has not spoken explicitly to the matter, it has addressed it in principle. In fact God has met the deepest needs of mankind in His Word, for His Word brings about the most necessary changes which are needed for mankind's fulfillment.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** - 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us **His precious and magnificent promises,** in order that **by them you might become partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASB

The Word of God is sufficient because it has transforming power to change us into the likeness of God.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* defines the sufficiency of Scripture in this way: "The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture; unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men."