

1  **Does the Word really work?**

1 Peter 1:22-25

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1 *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently from the heart, because you have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For "all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that has been proclaimed to you.*

2 1 Peter 1:22-25

3  **Purified lives**

- Purified by hearing the truth
- Hearing is different than listening
- Listening results in acknowledgement
- Hearing results in obedience
- The truth is God's Word.
- Psalm 119:9-11

4  **Why is the Word essential to purity?**

- It becomes an inner guide – especially when you meditate on it.
- The Word speaks to our spirit which is our innermost being. It is the part of us that hears and speaks to God.

5  **2 Cor. 3.18**

- *and we all, with unveiled face, the glory of the Lord beholding in a mirror, to the same image are being transformed, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- Paraphrase: The children of God look into the Word of God and see the Son of God. They are changed by the Spirit of God to be like the Son of God so that one day they share in the glory of God.
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6  **1 Peter 1:24-25**

- *For all men are like grass, and their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever.*
- The Bible isn't just any book.
- It is the breath of God.
- It's His love letter to His creation.
- It shows us what is true and how to live.
- It corrects us when we turn from God's way. It shows us how to get on the right track and then how to stay on track.

7  **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

- *All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

- The Bible is applicable for life and serves to provide guidance and encouragement revealing the deepest ambitions and desires of a person's heart.

8  **Hebrews 4:12**

- *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, both joints and marrow, and able to judge the reflections and thoughts of the heart.*
- The Bible is a living book.
- It is the only book that possesses this quality.

9  **Mark Twain**

- *Most people are bothered by those passages of the Bible they don't understand, but the passages that bother me most are those I do understand.*
- Why?
  - The Bible demands that you do more than hear the Word.
  - You must apply the Word to your life.
  - It asks you to live for someone and something greater than yourself.

10  **Isn't the Bible full of errors?**

- When people ask this, they are really asking, "Does the Bible really work?"
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- How to answer that question:
  - "Which error bothers you the most?"
  - People never actually know an error. Some say, "Well, that's what I've always heard."

11  **The Bible Is RELIABLE**

Inerrant  
Infallible  
Inspired  
Imperative

12  **The TEXT is Reliable**

- 14,000 manuscripts and fragments of the O.T. If you lay all of them side by side you'll find 1 variation every 1580 words, and 99% are spelling variations!
- Until 1947, the best text available was the Masoretic Text (500-900 A.D.) found in Tiberius.
  - That left a 1300 year gap between the text and completion of the Hebrew Bible.
  - Critics claimed the text had to have changed over the years.

13  **Dead Sea Scrolls**

- In 1947, a Bedouin boy named Muhammad found the DSS.
- These scrolls were written about 250-150 BC. Suddenly manuscripts were available that were 1000 years older and closer to originals!
- Critics went to work to point out the changes and discrepancies. Instead, scholars found them 95% identical.
  - Think about it – 1000 years of copying and recopying and the only changes were in spelling!

14  **Matthew 5:18**

- *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."*

15  **The NT**

- There are 24,000 copies of the NT.
  - 5,300 in Greek
  - 10,000 in Latin
  - 9,300 in other languages.
- Lay them side by side and you'll find less than 1 variation in a 1000 words. The variations are from a scribe copying a word wrong or inverting a letter.
  - This is why I prefer the majority text.

16  **Fredrick Kenyon**

- *Any doubt the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the NT may be regarded as finally established.*

17  **The Genealogy of Jesus**

- Some people think the Bible contains two conflicting genealogies of Jesus.
- One was recorded by Matthew and the other by Luke.
- Luke was tracing the genealogy of Mary
- Matthew was tracing the genealogy of Joseph.

18  **The Suicide of Judas**

- Matthew claimed Judas hung himself (Matthew 27:5) -- *And throwing the silver coins into the temple he departed. And he went away and hanged himself.*
- Peter claimed Judas fell and was crushed by the impact of a fall (Acts 1:18) -- *Now this man acquired a field for the wages of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines spilled out.*

19  **No conflict**

- Matthew doesn't deny the fall and Peter doesn't deny the hanging.
- Each was simply pointing out different aspects associated with the suicide death of Judas.
  - Judas hung himself on a tree branch over the valley of Hinnom.
  - At some point his body came down. The tree branch snapped or he was cut down. His body fell 40 feet into the valley floor. His decaying corpse burst open when he hit bottom, so it was called the field of blood (*Aceldama*).

20  **Literary style**

- Genesis 1 – Describes creation and then shows man to be created last.
- Genesis 2 – Starts with the creation of man and then goes on to talk about the other creation.
  - Not 2 views.
  - A macroscopic view in Genesis 1 (overview).
  - A microscopic view in Genesis 2 (looking in detail at man)
- This macroscopic / microscopic explanation was a common literary method.

21  **Limits of translation**

- Our doctrinal statement affirms the Scriptures as inerrant and infallible in their original language.
- Concerning Paul's conversion, Acts 9:7 says that the men w/ Saul stood speechless w/ surprise, for they heard the sound of someone's voice, but they saw no one!
- But in Acts 22:9, "The people with me (Paul) saw the light but didn't hear the voice."

22  **Limits of translation (2)**

- The contradiction is in English, not in Greek.
  - The verb to hear (*akouo*) is not in both accounts.
  - Acts 9 says that they heard a noise, but doesn't tell us that they understood it.
  - Acts 22:9 clarifies that they did not understand the noise.
  - So the latter passage clarifies the former.

23  **Proverbs 18:24**

- KJV -- *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*
- LEB, ESV -- *A man of many friends will come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*
- Complete Jewish Bible: *Some "friends" pretend to be friends, but a true friend sticks closer than a brother.*

24  **Proverbs 18:24 (2)**

- *A man of many "friends"* -- רֵעַ (rēa') friend, companion, another person.
- *Will come to ruin* -- רָעָא' (rā' a') -- be bad, evil. Denominative verb.
- But there is a friend who is closer than a brother.
  - אָהֵב ('āhēb) love, like, be in love, lovely.
- Antithetic parallelism ("but") means that this latter relationship is characterized by righteousness!

25  **The Bible is REMARKABLE**

26  **Diverse writers over long time**

- 1500 years in the writing (40 generations) from 40 authors from every walk of life.
  - Moses: Politician
  - Joshua: Soldier
  - Nehemiah: Cupbearer
  - Solomon: King
  - Daniel: Prime Minister
  - Amos: Herdsman
  - Luke: Doctor
  - Paul: Rabbi
  - Peter: Fisherman

27  **Diverse geography**

- 3 different continents: Asia – Africa – Europe – (16 different countries)

- Moses was in the wilderness.
- Jeremiah was in a dungeon.
- Daniel wrote from a Babylonian hillside and in the palace.
- Paul wrote from a prison cell.
- John had been banished to the Isle of Patmos.
- Joshua wrote during rigors of military campaign.
- David wrote during war time.
- Solomon wrote in the midst of prosperity and peace.

28  **Diverse languages**

- 3 different languages:
  - Hebrew
  - Aramaic
  - Koine Greek

29  **Absolute harmony**

- In the Bible there is a complete harmony that can't be explained by coincidence or collusion. From cover to cover you'll find there is:
  - One hero – the Messiah
  - One villain – Satan
  - One problem – Sin
  - One purpose – Salvation
- Clearly, there is one Architect of the book – Jesus Christ.

30  **The HISTORY is Remarkable**

- Critics claimed Pilate never existed, yet archeologists have uncovered a theater in Caesarea bearing his name
- Critics claim the Hittites never existed, but archeologists uncovered 1200 years of Hittite history.
- Critics claimed King Belshazzar of Babylon never existed, but archeology has confirmed his reality.
- Critics claimed Nebuchadnezzar never existed, but Saddam Hussein found bricks with his name and put them on display.
- Every time a spade goes into the ground – another critic gets buried!

31  **Robert Wilson**

- Robert Wilson one of the greatest linguists of history. He spoke and wrote fluently in more than 45 languages.
- *I may add that the result of my 45 years of study of the Bible has led me to a firmer faith that in the O.T. we have as a true and historical account of the history of the Israelite people.*

32  **Nelson Glueck**

- Nelson Glueck is the former president of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a prominent archeologist.
- *"I've been accused of teaching the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scripture. I want it to be*

*understood that I have never taught this. All I have ever said is that in all of my archeological investigation I've never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God."*

33  **The PROPHECY is Remarkable**

- Approximately 1,817 individual predictions, concerning 737 separate subjects, found in 8,352 verses. That's 27% of the 31,124 verses found in the Bible!
- The Bible predicted the rebirth of Israel – to the day! Do the math associated with the prophecy in Ezekiel 4:3-6. Using a lunar calendar and taking into account the leap years and the duplication of 1 BC and 1 AD, Israel would reform as a nation on May 15, 1948 (the exact date the British officially declared Israel a nation!)

34  **Prophecy is remarkable (2)**

- The Bible Predicted the Arrival of the Messiah – to the day!
- Daniel 9:24-27 – use lunar calendar, take into account the leap years and the duplication of 1 BC and 1 AD, it leads to a date of March 30, AD 33 – the original Palm Sunday.
- Daniel further predicted the Messiah would be killed shortly after his entry.
- The Bible predicted the entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem and His execution 173,885 days in advance!

35  **Predictions about Christ**

- The OT contains 48 specific prophecies w/ some 300 ramifications referring to the Messiah. Every prophecy was published at least 500 years before Christ was born. . .
- Micah 5:2 predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- Isaiah 40:3 predicted he'd be preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist)
- Zechariah 9:9 predicted he would ride triumphantly into Jerusalem on a colt.

36  **Predictions about Christ (2)**

- Psalm 41:9 predicted he would be betrayed by a friend.
- Zechariah 11:12 predicted he would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.
- Psalm 22:16-17 predicted he'd be crucified 600 years before the Romans invented that form of execution.
- Isaiah 53:12 predicted that the Messiah would be crucified with thieves.

37  **What are the odds?**

- 48 prophecies – all fulfilled in Jesus. The mathematical odds for Jesus to fulfill just 17 of 48 prophecies is 1 chance in  $480^{30}$  (1 in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion).
- If every chance that one man could fulfill all 17 of these prophecies is represented by a grain of sand that sand would fill the galaxy.
- Now mark 1 grain of sand with red paint – mix it with the 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion other grains.
- Now we blind fold you and set you adrift in galaxy of sand, the likelihood that you would pick the red grain on your first try is 1 in  $480^{30}$ .

38  **The Bible is REDEMPTIVE**

- Throughout the Bible, there's one story: God's endeavoring to redeem His creation.
- D.L. Moody – *"The Bible wasn't given for our information but for our transformation."*

- The Bible is God's love letter to us that seeks to unite us with Him.
- The Bible story is about how you and I can know God. Each and every story is true and accurate. The Bible is the very breath of God spoken to His creation in written form to reveal to each of us who God is and that He loves us.

39  **The Bible has a power unlike any other book**

- Joseph Stalin ordered a purge of all Bibles and believers in Russia in 1920.
- In Stavropol, this order was carried out completely.
  - Bibles confiscated
  - Believers put in gulags (prisons) where they died as enemies of the state.

40  **The Bible has power (2)**

- In 1994, an evangelistic team was sent to Stavropol.
  - When they had difficulty getting Bibles shipped from Moscow, someone mentioned they knew a warehouse outside of town, where the Bibles confiscated in 1920 had been stored instead of destroyed.
  - The team prayed and determined to go to the warehouse and ask if the Bibles could be redistributed.
  - Permission was given. The next day the team returned w/ a truck and several Russians to load the Bibles.

41  **The Bible has power (3)**

- A young hostile, agnostic man who came only for the day's wages disappeared as they were unloading the Bibles.
- They found him in the corner weeping. He had stolen a Bible to have a look. But of the thousands of Bibles he could have stolen, he found the Bible that had his grandmother's handwritten signature inside the cover. She died for her faith.
- He received Christ as his Savior.
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42  **1 Peter 1:23**

- *because you have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*
- Another translation: *For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever b/c it comes from the eternal, living word of God.*

43  **Time to apply the truth**

- How much time have you spent in God's Word lately?
- Are you reading it?
- Are you listening to it?
- Are you meditating on it?
- What do you have to do that is more important than listening to God?
- God's truth is the essential ingredient to our own personal holiness. You can't win life's struggles without the Word.