

Tell Me The Truth!

What Truth Do You Base Your Life On?

New Life Church's Statement of Faith – The Bible

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the inerrant, infallible, verbally and plenary inspired, authoritative Word of God. A proper understanding of Bibliology is foundational, as the Bible is the source book for all doctrine and practice. It is to be received as the authoritative Word of God bearing an authority superior to that of the Church, or its creeds, councils, or declarations. The Holy Scriptures in their entirety, down to the very words of the original autographs, were given by divine inspiration. Inspiration was that work whereby God by His Spirit, through human writers utilizing their distinct personalities and literary styles, gave us His Word. Because of inspiration, Scripture is inerrant, infallible, completely true and reliable in all matters it addresses, free from all falsehood or deceit. Those sixty-six books, thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament, have their place in the Bible on the basis of their inspiration and were recognized and submitted to as inspired and canonical by the Church and stand as our final standard for faith and practice.

Important Word Definitions

- Inerrant – free from **ERROR**
- Infallible - absolutely **TRUSTWORTHY OR SURE** unailing in **EFFECTIVENESS** or operation
- Verbally – referring to **WORDS**, something expressed in **VOCAL WORDS**
- Plenary – full or **COMPLETE OR ENTIRE**
- Inspired – to influence, to prompt, **TO INSTIGATE** to **CONTROL OR GUIDE** by influence

Why Is It Important To Believe These Things About The Bible?

- Personally
- Culturally

What Is The Bible?

- The Bible is a library of **66 INDIVIDUAL** books written by **40 DIFFERENT** men over a period of roughly **1500 YEARS**.
- This library is separated into 2 major divisions:
 - Old Testament with 4 sections **LAW, HISTORY, POETRY, PROPHETS** = 39 books
 - New Testament with 4 sections **GOSPELS, HISTORY, LETTERS/EPISTLES, PROPHECY** 27 books

How Did We Get The Bible?

- The true author of the Bible is **GOD** – God **SPOKE** / men **WROTE**
 - **2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.
 - **2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

How Do We Know The Bible Is What It Claims To Be?

1. Manuscript Evidence

| Author | Date A Work Was Written | Earliest Surviving Copy Of Original Work | Time Span Between Authorship and Nearest Copy | Number of Original Copies Which Exists |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Plato | 427–347 BC | 900 AD | 1200 years | <u>7</u> |
| Aristotle | 384–322 BC | 1000 AD | 1300 years | <u>49</u> |
| Julius Caesar Gallic Wars | 100 - 44 BC | 1300 AD | 1000 years | <u>10</u> |
| Homer's Iliad | 800–750 BC | 250 BC | 500 years | <u>643</u> |
| New Testament | 90 AD | 130 AD | 40 years | <u>24,633</u> |

Is The Bible Really Without Error?

- In the original autographs
- But what about the copies? Aren't there mistakes?
 - God promised to preserve His word **FOREVER** Isaiah 40:8
 - The way the scribes copied the Torah **PREVENTED MISTAKES**
 - The New Testament was also well protected from mistakes
- Transcribing errors
 - All the errors discovered in the most modern translations we have today are minor issues.
 - of vs. with / also with vs. along with
 - An example of one of the most glaring errors (2 Kings 8:26 – Ahaziah 22-yrs-old) (2 Chronicles 22:2 – Ahaziah 42-yrs-old)
 - Others...
 - Dead Sea scrolls and the Book of Isaiah

Other Evidence

- Archeological Evidence
- Prophecy Evidence
 - The odds a person could fulfill 8 of the major prophecies Christ fulfilled in his life are **1:10/17th POWER**.
 - The odds a person could fulfill 48 prophecies are: **1:10/157th POWER**.
 - There are, in the Old Testament, 356 prophecies Jesus literally fulfilled.

Where Are You Going To Find Truth In Our World Today?