

Opening Prayer

Let Us Begin in Prayer

Lord God, You have said that Your word shall not return unto You void, but shall accomplish that which You please.

Tonight, we ask that it would not return empty from this room.

*We have spent two weeks on whether Your Word is true.
Turn us now to what Your true Word actually does — how it saves, corrects,
sustains, and holds when everything else gives way.*

Do Your work in us by the Word You cannot fail to keep. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Isaiah 55:10–11 • John 10:35

WEEKS THREE & FOUR ·
INFALLIBILITY



The Word That Cannot Fail

A Word That Cannot Fail, and What It Asks of Us

Key Text: **Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 119:89–93**

Not a better track record — a different kind of claim

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WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

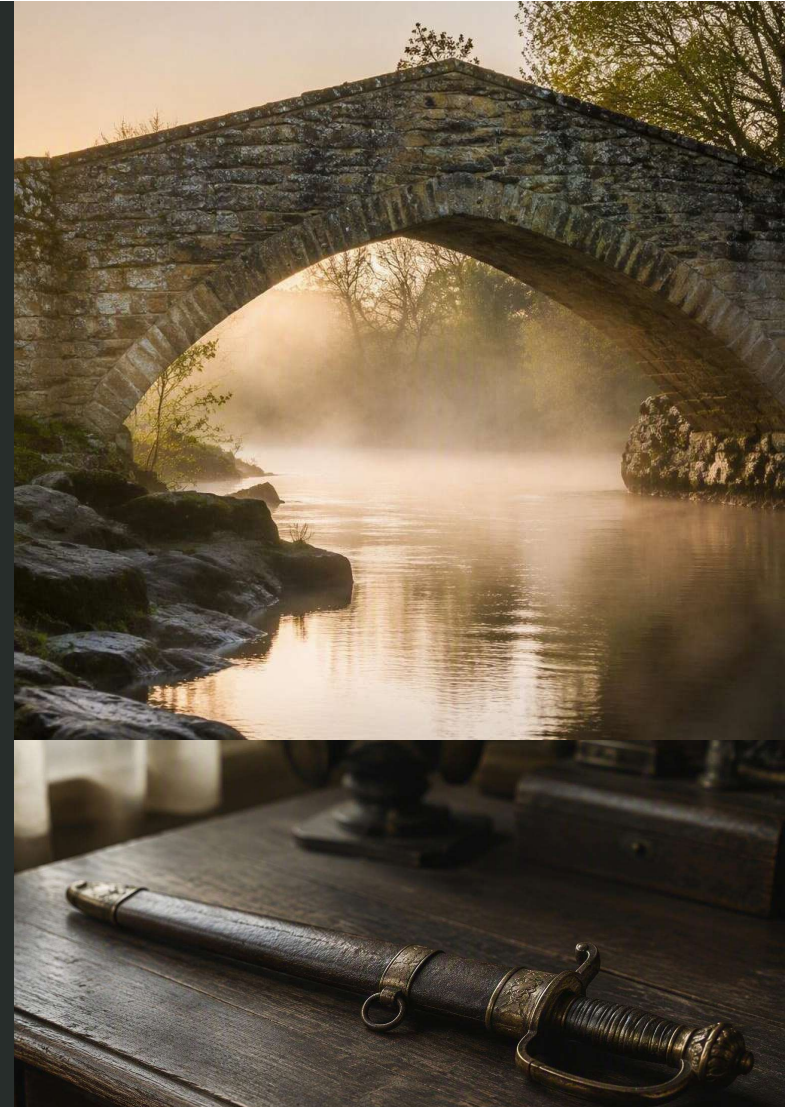
From True to Unfailing

So far: God breathed out the Scriptures, and they tell the truth in everything they say.

Tonight, we add one more word the church has long used: infallible.

Inerrancy says the Bible does not err. Infallibility says it cannot err — it cannot mislead you.

And a Word that cannot mislead cannot fail its errand. Tonight: what that means, and what it asks of your week.



Inerrancy alone leaves the sword sheathed.

Read Aloud Together

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

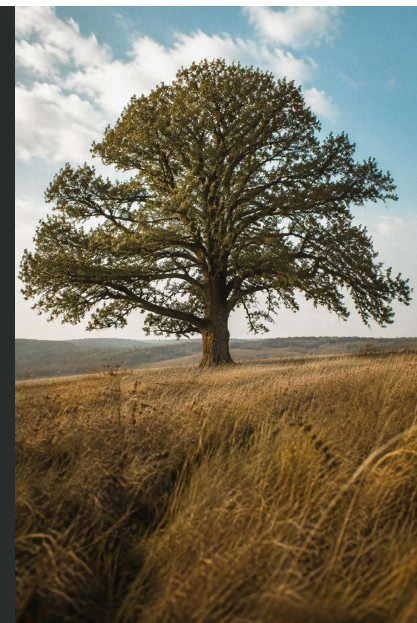
Isaiah 55:10–11

I. A Word That Cannot Fail

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

Infallible — the word we opened with tonight — is Latin infallibilis: not able to err.

- It is a statement about capacity, not merely track record: Scripture cannot mislead those who trust it.
- Jesus put it plainly: “the scripture cannot be broken
Not merely has not been — cannot be
- **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).**



II. Inerrancy and Infallibility Distinguished

“For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

Inerrancy looks backward: no error in the text.

Infallibility goes further: it cannot err, and so cannot fail.

Chicago Article XI says they cannot be separated.

“Limited infallibility” shrinks the word — and then someone must sort the trustworthy parts.

Two words, one confidence: God does not misspeak, and God does not miss.



IT ACCOMPLISHES

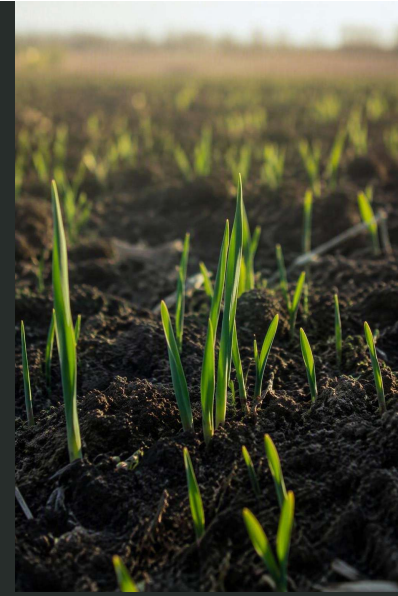
III. What the Word Actually Does

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

It gives new birth (**1 Peter 1:23**).

- It creates faith (**Romans 10:17**).
- It sanctifies — “thy word is truth” (**John 17:17**).
- It sustains — “thy word hath quickened me” (**Psalms 119:50**).

*We do not make the Word effective.
We put ourselves under it.*



THE HONEST TEST

What We Confess and How We Live

It is possible to affirm every word of this study and be unchanged by all of it.

- We can defend inerrancy online and neglect the Word at the kitchen table.
- We can call the Bible sufficient and reach for it last, after everyone else has weighed in.
- Functional authority is not what we say about the Book. It is what we do when it contradicts us.

What you actually believe is what you do when Scripture crosses you.



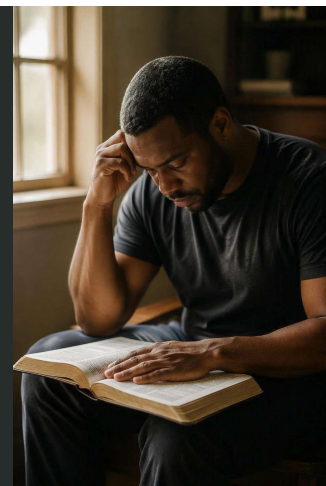
WHEN IT CONFRONTS

I. The Moment the Text Crosses You

“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.” Proverbs 12:1

Sooner or later Scripture will say something you do not want to hear. That moment is the real test.

- The instinct is to soften it, contextualize it away, or find a teacher who will tell you otherwise.
- The better instinct: assume the text is right and you are wrong, then read again more slowly.
- Obedience is not the price of God's favor; it is the evidence that His Word has landed.



WHEN YOU SUFFER

II. Something to Stand On

“Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.”

In grief, feelings are unreliable witnesses.

- Without God's Word he would have perished in his affliction.
- Store it now, so it is there in the sleepless hour.
- **Romans 8:28 Psalm 23 Lamentations 3:22–23**

Deeply

*Nobody memorizes Scripture in the emergency.
You carry in what you stored beforehand.*



WHEN PRESSED

III. Standing Without Sneering

“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Side with Scripture — and do it without contempt.

- Know why you believe it, not only that you do.
- Answer the question asked; never confuse rudeness with courage.
- A gentle answer persuades more than a loud one.

*Conviction and kindness are not rivals.
Christ held both perfectly.*



PASSING IT ON

IV. Handing It to the Next Room

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

This study was never meant to end with you. Read it to your children; open it with a friend over lunch.

You do not need a degree to say, “Here is what this passage says, and here is why I trust it.”

Four generations are in view in 2 Timothy 2:2 — Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others also.



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

One Line, Thirty Days

- On the card, write the one thing you have not yet acted on.
- Fold it into your Bible at the passage that convicted you.
- Let it remind you of God's faithfulness.
- Then ask: did I obey, or did I merely agree?



Weekly Challenge Psalm 119 in 22 days, eight verses a day — one stanza a day. Each day write one thing you read and one thing you will do.

CLOSE

Discussion & Further Study

Discussion Questions

- Which part of tonight challenged you most, and what will you actually do about it?
- Who is the one person you could open the Bible with in the next month?

Recommended Resources

- Kevin DeYoung, Taking God at His Word — best entry point
- John Frame, The Doctrine of the Word of God
- J.I. Packer, Knowing God, ch. 1–5
- Donald Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life
- **Westminster Confession, ch. I** **Psalm 119**

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