

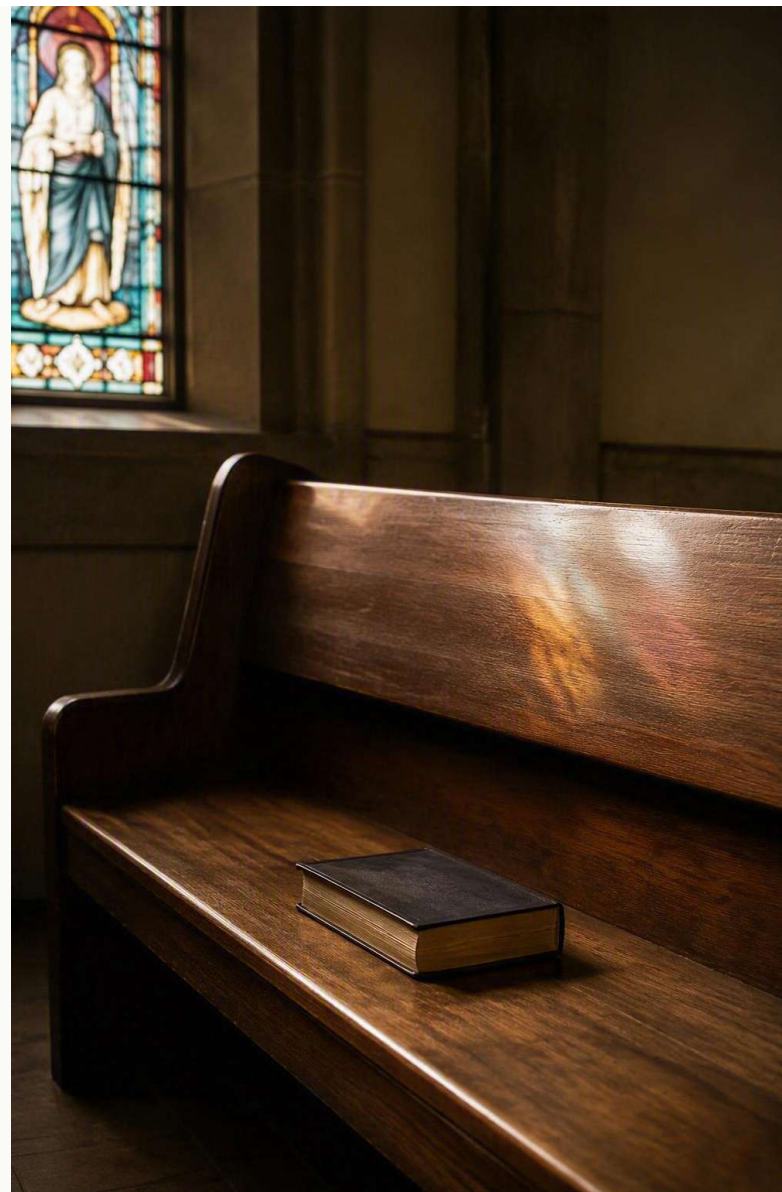
Opening Prayer

Let Us Begin in Prayer

Our gracious Father, You have not left us to guess at who You are. You have spoken, and Your speech is true. Open our minds tonight to receive what You have said and guard us from sitting in judgment over the Word that judges us.

*Give us **reverence without fear, confidence without arrogance, and honesty about the questions we carry.** By Your Spirit, persuade us that every word You have breathed is trustworthy. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, who Himself lived by every word that comes from Your mouth. Amen.*

2 Timothy 3:16–17 · Psalm 12:6



WEEK ONE · INERRANCY

The Word God Breathed

What Inerrancy Is, and Why the Church Confesses It

Key Text: **2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21**

Soli Deo Gloria

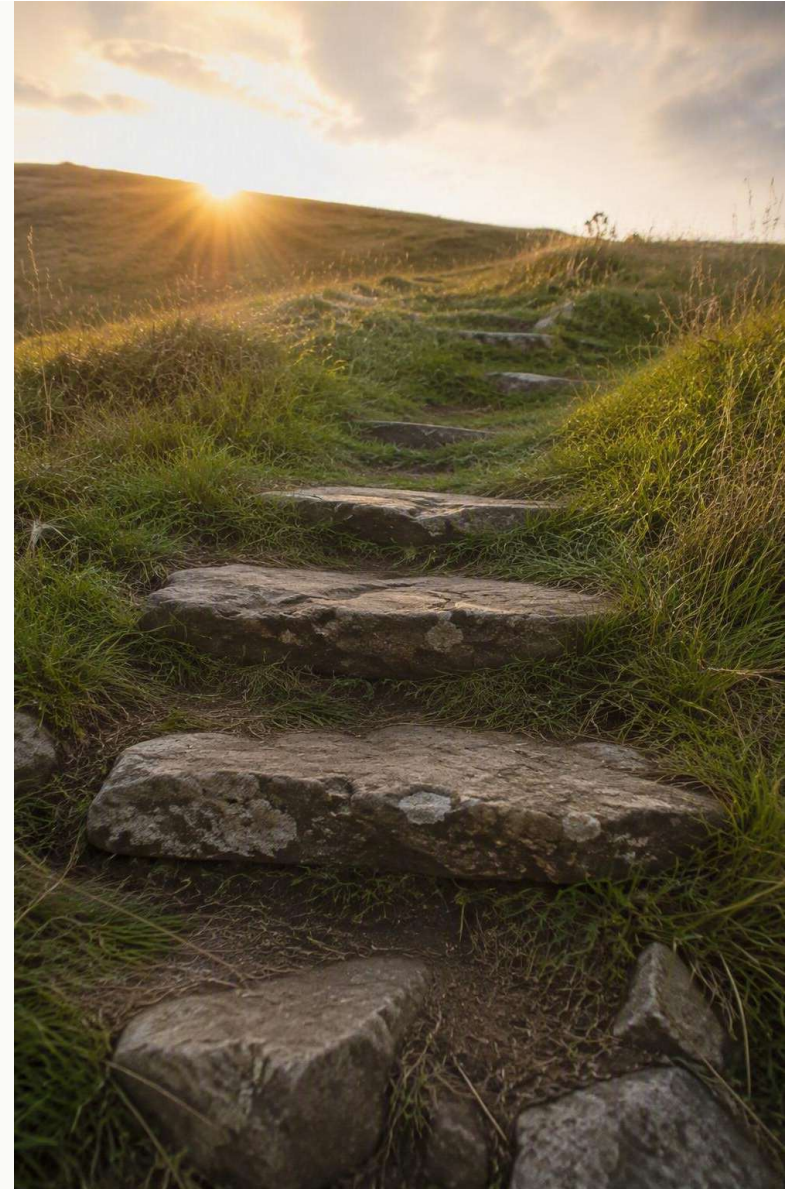


WHERE WE ARE GOING

A Four-Week Question

Four weeks on one question: can the Bible be trusted, all the way down?

- Weeks one and two: inerrancy — Scripture tells the truth in all that it affirms.
- Weeks three and four: infallibility — Scripture cannot fail in what it sets out to do.
- This is not an academic exercise. What we believe about the Book decides what we do with it.



KEY TEXT

Read Aloud Together

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

2 Timothy 3:16–17 · 2 Peter 1:20–21



THE IMAGE

Breathed Out, Not Merely Gathered

The KJV renders it “given by inspiration of God.” Behind that phrase stands a single Greek word: *theopneustos* — God-breathed.

Words are what breath becomes. When God exhaled, what came out was Scripture: sixty-six books, some forty human authors, one divine Author who never contradicts Himself.

If the words are His breath, then the question of their truthfulness is not a question about a book. It is a question about God.



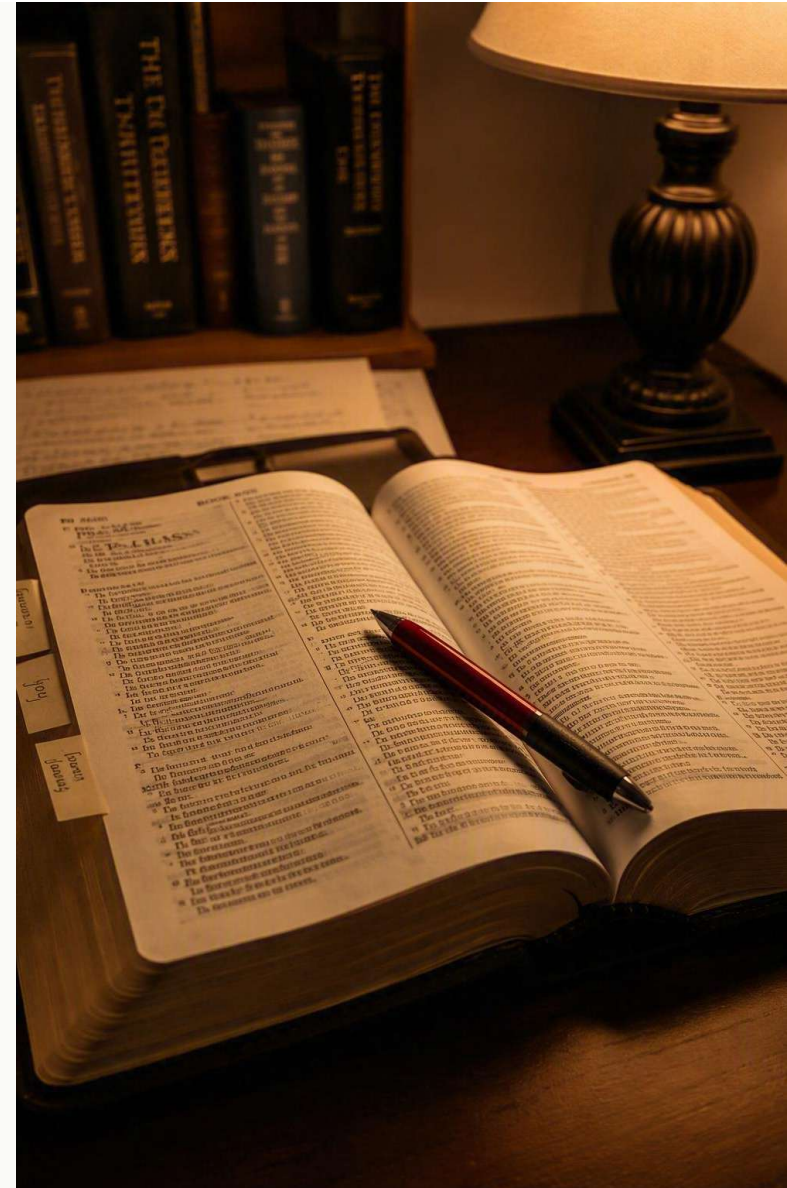
THE STAKES

A Doctrine You Cannot Quarantine

We rarely reject the Bible. We reserve a veto.

- We keep the comfort passages and shelve the commands.
- We call parts culture-bound; the culture decides which.
- Once we hold the veto, the Bible no longer rules us.

A Bible we correct is a Bible that can no longer correct us.



OVERVIEW

Four Things to Settle Tonight

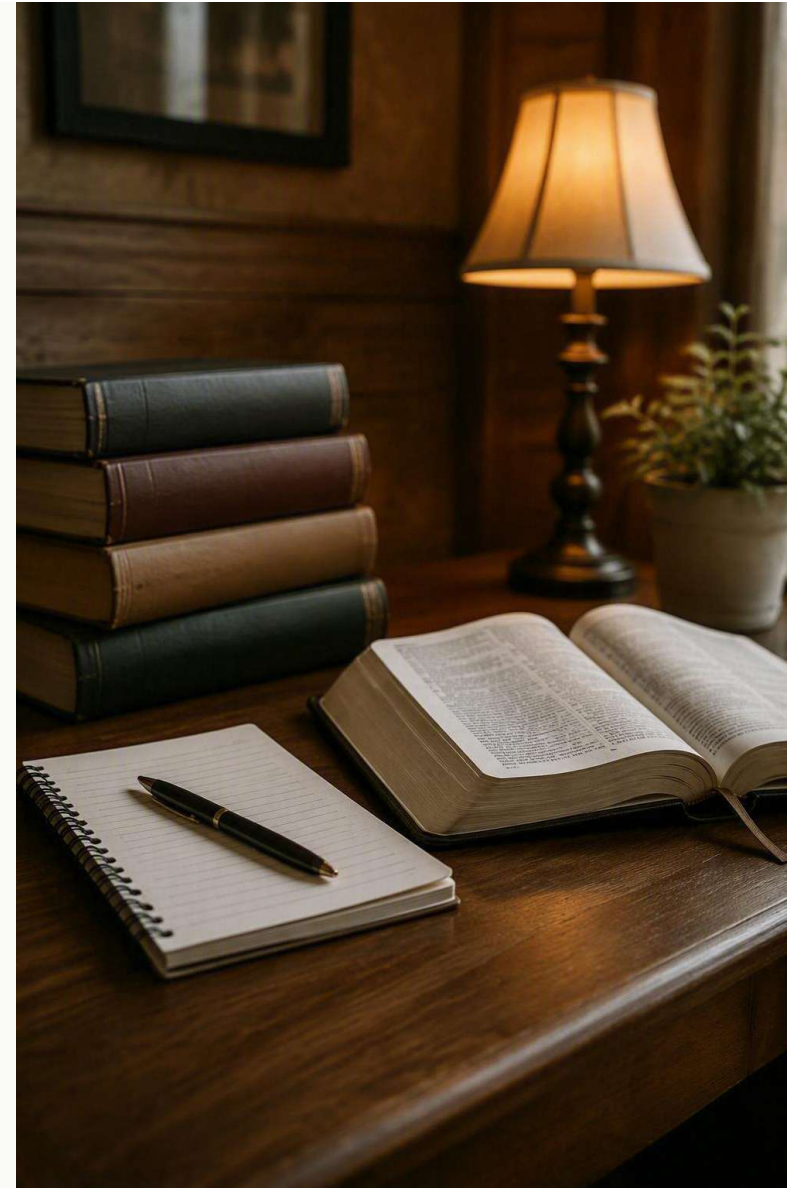
I What It
Claims

II Its Own
Witness

III Christ's
View

IV Why It
Matters

"Do I treat this Book as God speaking?"

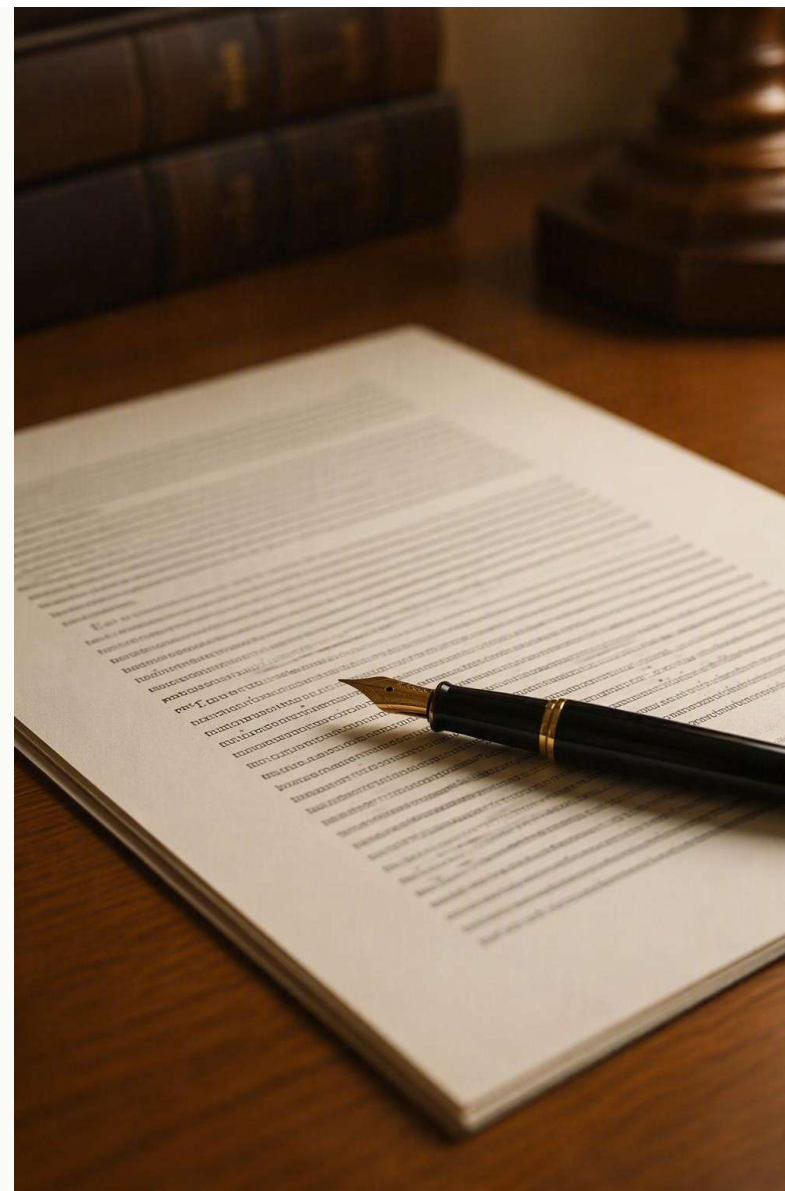


I. What Inerrancy Claims

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.” — Psalm 12:6

Inerrancy: Scripture, in the original manuscripts, tells the truth in everything it affirms.

- It speaks in the language of ordinary observation — sunrise, four corners, the windows of heaven, the ends of the earth — as we still do today.
- It records true accounts of false speech: Satan’s lies, Job’s counselors, the fool’s “no God.”
- It does not claim modern technical precision: rounded numbers, topical order, free quotation.



ITS OWN WITNESS

II. What Scripture Says of Itself

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” — Proverbs 30:5

Psalm 19:7 — “The law of the LORD is perfect.”

- Psalm 119:160 — True from the beginning, and forever.
- Proverbs 30:6 — “Add thou not unto his words.”
- Numbers 23:19 — God is not a man, that he lies.

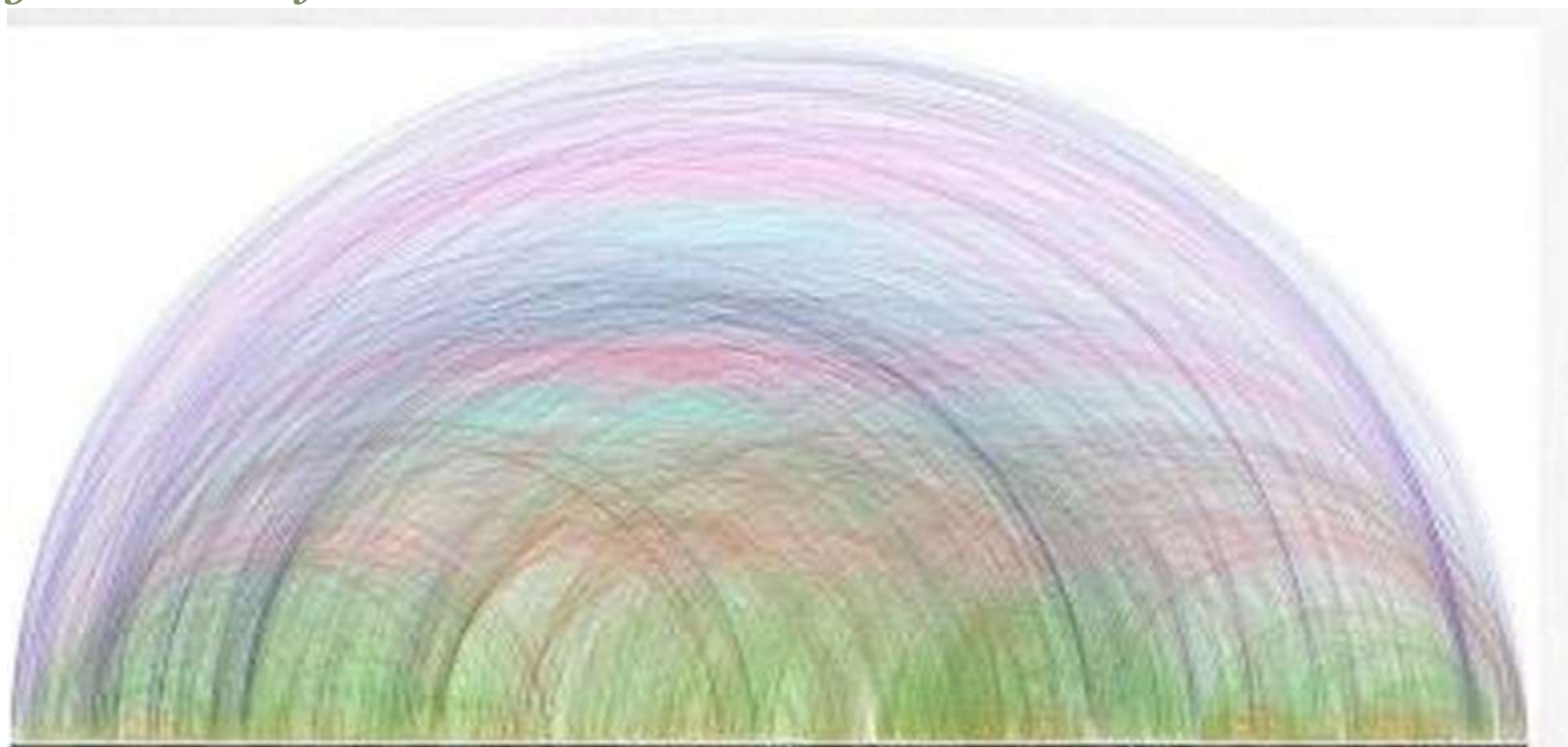
Scripture's claim about itself is not modest, and it is not optional.



SIXTY-SIX BOOKS, ONE VOICE

63,779 Connections

*Forty authors. Fifteen centuries. One **unbroken** conversation.*



GENESIS

Law

History

Poetry

Prophets

Gospels

Epistles

REVELATION

5

12

5

17

4

21

THE CONFESSION SPEAKS

Westminster Confession I.5

“It doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God.”

The testimony of the Church may move us to a high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture.

- The heavenliness of the matter, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole — all glory to God.
- Its full discovery of the only way of salvation abundantly evidences it to be the Word of God.
- Yet full persuasion of its infallible truth is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

Westminster Confession *of Faith I.5 (1646)*



HOW WE COME TO BE SURE

The Spirit's Inward Witness

“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.” — 1 Corinthians 2:14

Arguments can establish that a claim is credible; they cannot make a heart believe it.

- Not a shortage of intelligence but of capacity — you cannot argue anyone into a faculty they lack.
- John 10:27 — “My sheep hear my voice.” Recognition, not deduction.
- The Spirit never testifies apart from the Word, but by and with it — guarding us from cold rationalism on one side and untethered mysticism on the other.

*Evidence informs the mind; the Spirit **persuades** the heart.*



THE ARGUMENT BENEATH

A God Who Cannot Lie

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” — Titus 1:2

Hebrews 6:18 — “it was impossible for God to lie.” Not does not. Cannot.

- 2 Samuel 7:28 — “thou art that God, and thy words be true.” Character first, then speech.
- John 17:17 — “thy word is truth.” Not a container of truth. Truth itself.

Lower the Word’s truthfulness and you have not merely lowered a book.



III. How Our Lord Treated It

“The scripture cannot be broken.”

He settled arguments by citing a single word or tense (Matthew 22:31-32).

- He treated Adam, Noah, Abraham and Jonah as real people in history.
- He staked His mission on one jot and one tittle (Matthew 5:17-18).

To hold a lower view of Scripture than Jesus did is a strange place for a disciple to stand.



WHY IT MATTERS

IV. What Rides on This

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Assurance: if the promises can fail at some points, you can never be sure yours is not one of them.

Authority: a Bible that errs must be judged by some higher standard — and that standard becomes our real god.

Mission: we send missionaries and martyrs on the strength of this Book. It must bear the weight.



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

A Week of Listening

- Read one chapter a day with a pen. Mark every place the text claims to speak for God.
- Write down one passage you have held at arm's length.
- Do not resolve it yet. Week two is built for it.
- Then ask: a book about God, or God speaking to me?

Weekly Challenge

2 Timothy 3 and 2 Peter 1 daily this week. Write one sentence each day on what it means that God spoke these words.



CLOSE

Discussion & Further Study

Discussion Questions

- Where have you been tempted to keep a quiet veto over parts of Scripture?
- Jesus said, "Scripture cannot be broken." What would change this week if you fully believed that?

Recommended Resources

- Greg Gilbert, *Why Trust the Bible?* — best entry point
- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, ch. 4–6
- B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*
- *The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy* (1978)
- *Westminster Confession*, ch. I · Psalm 19; Psalm 119

Soli Deo Gloria

