

## Self-attestation or self-authenticating

**how do we know the Bible is Word of God and not the Qur'an & Bhagavad Gita?  
-all claim to be authoritative having come from God/gods -**

1. **there are testable, verifiable or falsifiable aspects of proof of its reliability**
  - a. archaeology – the more we find the more Bible is proven to be true
  - b. Bible ≠ a history book but all history in Scripture over & over shown accurate
  - c. fulfilled prophecies that can't be refuted – tho' tried – **Isaiah II**
  - c. internal consistency – Scripture interpreting Scripture
    1. never contradicts
    2. always speaks in a way that confirms obvious reality
2. **all give objective confidence in the Bible but preponderance of evidence =**
  - a. **people don't reject Xianity for lack of evidence –**
    1. i.e., the problem ≠ intellectual
    2. the proof from external sources regarding truth of Bible is overwhelming
  - b. **the real problem is a moral one**
    1. someone not reconciled to God in Christ living in disobedience
    2. doesn't want to hear that God has full & final claim on his life to be true

**Luke 16:27-31** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house- <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers- so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'  
<sup>29</sup> But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'  
<sup>30</sup> And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'  
<sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**there's not a proof or clear evidence on earth that can penetrate the will of man**

"The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of... We know the truth not only by the reason, but by the heart." – **Blaise Pascal, Pensées**

**the Bible says all kinds of things about God, man, sin, salvation, history, etc**

**1. but it also says a lot about itself**

- a. **breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction & training in +R – both OT & NT**
- b. says God speaks to His people & they write His words down
- c. doesn't negate human authors also wrote it
  1. God told Moses what to say and what to write
  2. @ other times He gave visions to His prophets & they recorded in writing

**4. The Scripture is self-authenticating. Its authority does not depend upon the testimony of any man or church, but entirely upon God, its author, who is truth itself. It is to be received because it is the Word of God.**

**a. a circular argument – we believe the Bible is God's word b/c it says it is  
the Scriptures are the Scriptures b/c they say they are the Scriptures and  
therefore we believe they are the Scriptures**

**b. would never hold in a debate with any skeptic, atheist or Muslim**

-what about the Kor'an? or Analects of Confucius?

**c. but can either side ever really prove their claim to be true?**

-can give varying evidences of reliability but really can't prove from God

**2. this is where the internal witness of the Spirit comes in –**

- a. only those whom God the HS has made alive in Christ will submit to Scripture as His inerrant & infallible word
- b. when we become believers the HS doesn't give us a new argument for the truth of the Bible
  - 1. He confirms in our hearts that it's true
    - a. internally – (harmony & majesty of its contents)
    - b. and thru its historical, prophetic & archaeological accuracy

**objective proofs for the Bible are many & compelling but they can't force people to believe against their wills – when they don't want to**

- 1. sinners are only persuaded to receive the Bible as God's Word
- 2. as the HS changes their hearts & assures them they can trust and rely on it **the HS bears witness to the Scriptures, assuring believers of the truthfulness of God's written word**

- 1. the Bible is the HS's book – He is involved
  - a. not only in the inspiration of Scripture
  - b. but also as a witness to Scripture's truthfulness

2. the 'internal testimony' of the HS

**the HS provides a testimony that takes place inside us**

- 1. just as He bears witness with our spirit we are children of God – **Rom 8:16**
- 2. bears witness w/our spirit that the Bible is the Word of God
- 3. & assures us of its inerrant, infallible truth

**IS THERE A WORD FROM THE LORD ABOUT THE WORD?**  
a testimony to the glory, relevance, sufficiency & clarity of Scripture

Psalm 19:7-14

**greatest summary of the power of the Word of God anywhere in the Bible**

<b>TITLES</b>		<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>EFFECTS</b>
Law	of the LORD	perfect	reviving the soul
Testimony	of the LORD	sure	making wise the simple
Precepts	of the LORD	right	rejoicing the heart
Commandment	of the LORD	pure	enlightening the eyes
Fear	of the LORD	clean	enduring forever
Judgements	of the LORD	true	righteous altogether

**of the LORD** – all 6 explicitly emphasize God as the source of the Word

- 1. **Law** – God's teaching and doctrines – the Law as the Word of God
  - a. **perfect** – complete – nothing needed is left out
  - b. **revives/transforms the soul** – *been born again thru the living & abiding W✓G*
- 2. **Testimony** – God's testimony about Himself – self-revelation
  - a. **sure** – reliable & trustworthy
  - b. **giving those w/o understanding/gullible/naïve wisdom** – *skilled in living like training wheels on a bicycle*
- 3. **Precepts** – principles God lays down
  - a. **right** – put us on the right path
  - b. **resulting in joy** – unaffected by our circumstances
- 4. **Commandment** – singular – one book with instructive prescriptions
  - a. **pure** – clear – plain in all its major points
  - b. **enlightens the eyes** – helps us see thru the fog, smoke, dust & ashes of our

pilgrimage here

*life can become completely incomprehensible @ times – gut-wrenching, heart-breaking, completely mind-baffling & un-understandable*

1. God's word understood and submitted to can clear away the debris
2. so either His purposes come to light OR His character shines bright overshadowing our lack of understanding
3. God is good & every thing He does is right – only learned from God's Word

**5. Fear** – God's word defines Him who is to be worshiped

- a. **clean** – leads us into proper reverence, awe & worship of Him
- b. **endures forever** – God's instructions for worship never out-dated/obsolete
  1. we're to worship as Adam, Moses, prophets & apostles
  2. where contemporary worship can go off rails at times
  3. **REMEMBER:** everything new is not bad – everything old is not good
    - a. we can change tunes to songs – most didn't have tunes @ first
    - b. we can translate into contemporary language
    - c. but content of worship & the object of our worship can never change
    - d. God is serious about how we approach Him – Nadab & Abihu

**6. Judgments** – verdicts from His bench – His rulings on everything that matters

- a. **true** – in world of deception and lies
- b. **righteous altogether** – every single judgment – makes us righteous in all our ways when we follow them

**who doesn't want or need**

1. **new life in his/her soul**
2. **to become more skillful @ living**
3. **to learn to be content & joyful in all circumstances**
4. **the dark skies of tragedy & trials to be cleared away by light of truth**
5. **to be shown the way of holiness and**
6. **kept on the path of righteousness**

**because it is the enduring living word alone, from the living God, revealed in the living Christ, thru the indwelling HS that is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path that can bring all this to come to pass**

1. not only is it true but it is sufficient
2. if offers everything anyone ever needs – anything could ever want out of life
  - a. it's our greatest possession – **10a**
  - b. it leads us to our greatest pleasure – **10b**
  - c. it's our greatest protector, warning us of danger – **11a**
  - d. it's our greatest provider – rewarding those who keep it – **11b**
  - d. it's our greatest purifier – **12-13**

**BENEDICTION – 14**

**Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL? – transformed – wise – content – enlightened – righteous – led by the one word – one book that will endure forever?**

**WHO WOULDN'T?**