CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Part 1
"What About Evidences?"

INTRO: I believe . . . TRUTH is my 2025 word. Two sources of truth: Jesus (Person of Truth – Jn. 14:6) and the Bible (Place of Truth – Jn. 17:17). Next series addresses this question, "Can we trust that the Bible is truth?" If asked "Do you trust the Bible?", 99.5% say 'yes.' If followed with "Why?", what would you say? ILLUS: "How do I know Linda loves me?" . . .

SERIES goal is less about convincing an unbeliever, and more about building confidence in the accuracy and authority of Scripture.

ROOT PROBLEM with those who reject God's Word as *holy* truthful and w*holly* truth is not one of ignorance (head) or lack of evidence but of the belief (heart). Most are willfully ignorant and blind. Since Garden Satan has questioned the accuracy and authority of God's Word (Gen. 3:3). Most that reject have never even read it. If it's true, they are not in charge of their lives, God is – and there is accountability (Rom. 1:19-28; 2:14-15; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:17-19; 2 Pet. 3:5; Jn. 3:19). No amount of proof will convince (Lk. 16:29-31). It's not our job to convince (that's the Holy Spirit – Jn. 16:7-11). Our role is to believe it and offer testimonial defense (1 Pet. 3:15) and to live it out in front of them (Matt. 5:14-16; Ph. 2:14). Mac quote . . .

GOD HAS SPOKEN (Heb. 1:1-3) – But, WHY? To reveal Himself and His love for all people. *Revelation* (not the book) is the technical term for *what* God did in making Himself known. Two forms: (1) Natural, largely external, and limited. Includes Creation (Rom. 1:20; Psa. 19:1) tells us of God's power and glory and Conscience more internal and progressive (Rom. 1:19) tell us of God's holiness. (2) Special has two forms: Jesus and Scripture. *Inspiration* is *how* God revealed Himself in the Scriptures and it explains the unity, accuracy, and authority of God's Word.

CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE: The Bible makes many unique and amazing claims. The biblical writers (40) never apologize: This may sound crazy but this is the Word of God or as hard as it is to believe, God actually gave me these words, . . . It is still the bestselling book ever! More copies of it exist in more languages than any other. Is using the Bible as evidence circular reasoning? Maybe, but self-testimony is always valid testimony, if the ONE giving it is truthful. The truth of the Bible rests completely on the character of its Author, God Himself. God is truth and cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18). God Himself is the Ultimate Standard (Gen. 22:16; Heb. 6:13). Let's examine the claims of the Bible for strong evidences from reliable witneses that we can trust the Bible. We can trust the Bible is . . .

A. *Divinely Inspired* (2 Key Passages)

1. (2 Tim. 3:16) God wrote His Words through imperfect human writers. How much is inspired (God-breathed)? "All" (plenary), "Scripture" (Words - verbal - not just thoughts). No degrees of inspiration. All writings (not writers) equally inspired. Later deal with *canonization*, addressing which books are inspired. This passage explains what God did. The next is HOW He did it.

2. (2 Pet. 1:20-21) How did He guide the writings (not writers)? Each of the forty were "moved" by the Holy Spirit, never losing their own identity, style, background, etc. See Acts 27:15 – nautical term. God *moved* the writers to record God-breathed writings. No part is of human origin. Jesus promised divine inspiration by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:13; 14:26). Divine inspiration means it is *infallible* (perfect, incapable of error like its Author), *inerrant* (no mistakes in original writings, without error) Psa. 19:7; Pro. 30:5. P. Little . . . From Him through them to us. Divine inspiration leads to . . .

B. *Supremely Authoritative* – Forty plus writers say over 3808 times this is The Word of the Lord. Once should be enough, knowing it's Author! When we read it, God speaks as final word and supreme authority – no higher standard (Matt. 5:18; 24:35; Lk. 16:17; 24:44; Jn. 6:66).

C. *Completely Finished* – No more inspired writings (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19). We have all the truth we need about God, man, salvation, eternity.

D. *Eternally Indestructible* – Forever truth. Satan and skeptics have tried to destroy and discredit this book for ages (Psa. 119:89; 1 Pet. 1:24-25). Voltaire . . . T Paine . . .

E. *Powerfully Effective* – Truth in this book when read with an open heart and the Holy Spirit working in transforming lives (2 Tim. 3:14-17; Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 15:4 – learn where to find hope).

NEXT? Confidence-building evidences from the biblical writers themselves and their claims about what they were writing.

CONC: Can we trust that the Bible is true? Only if its AUTHOR is true! The Bible is and must be its own ultimate proof. If refuse to believe then only God's Spirit can convince and convict of your need for a new heart. He can if you will. My Love Letter to my Bible . . .