

What the Bible Says about Itself

Checking a person's credibility usually means asking others what they know about the person. Similarly, when we check the credibility of a source we do things like verify authorship and compare with other reputable sources. So as we discuss the trustworthiness of the Bible, it might seem odd to go to the Bible itself. However, different letter writers in the New Testament give us the similar messages about trusting the Bible, so together we reviewing what they have to say to discuss why the Bible is an exception and we can take this book by its word and trust it.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How often do you believe what someone says about themselves? Does it make a difference if they're a stranger, acquaintance, family member, or close friend? Does their relationship to you matter?
- Do you regularly read the Old Testament? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*What the Bible Says about Itself*](#)

READ [2 Timothy 3:10-17](#), [2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- At the opening of the program, host Scott Hoezee says, “We cannot really prove it [the Bible] to the satisfaction of our fiercest critics, but we do prove it by living it, by having scripture change us and transform us from the inside out—the Holy Spirit lives in us.” Can you identify a time when a scripture led you to change? Or when a new understanding of scripture opened your eyes and changed your views? What type of lasting impact did you see in your faith and in how you live your life?
- Sit for a moment and observe your breathing. What do you notice? How does thinking about breath and breathing help you better understand inspiration and the God-breathed nature of the Bible?
- In reflecting on how we prove the truth of the Bible in segment 3, host Dave Bast notes, “Christians have long said that only God will convince you of this truth. It is something that the Holy Spirit, who inspired the writers of the scripture originally, can do for its readers today.” What is your reaction to this concept that the Holy Spirit has been at work every step of the way in the writing, selecting, and inspiring our faith to believe in the truth of the Bible?
- Describe images that come to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit hovering over the scriptures. What do these images teach you about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Bible?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 119](#), [Matthew 17:1-13/Mark 9:2-13/Luke 9:28-36](#), [Acts 2:42-47](#)

CONCLUSION

Spend the next week reading [Psalm 119](#). Each day, read 24-32 verses of the Psalm and reflect on the Psalmist's feelings about God's word. Consider journaling your thoughts and reactions. Each day, ask for the Holy Spirit to inspire your study so that your trust in God's word will deepen. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's word and the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the Bible's human writers.

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