

# Beyond Belief

## The Bible - Fact or Fiction

### SETTING THE STAGE



### THE HOLY BIBLE

God's revelation of Himself to man, that is inspired by the Holy Spirit, accurate in every word, inerrant in content, canonized in 66 books and preserved as God's Word relevant for everyone of every generation. It is God's revelation of Himself to you today.

### CONNECTING WITH THE SUBJECT

#### God's Word - Not Man's Opinion

**2 Peter 1:20-21** (Msg)

*"The main thing to keep in mind here is that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of private opinion. [21] And why? Because it's not something concocted in the human heart. Prophecy resulted when the Holy Spirit prompted men and women to speak God's Word."*

1. All other literature that you might read expresses the thoughts and opinion of the writer, but the Bible expresses the thoughts and opinion of whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who prompted men and women to speak and write what God wanted communicated to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### God's Word - Used To Put Together and Shape Up

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** (Msg)

*"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. [17] Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."*

1. The message in the Bible is useful to you for: (2 Timothy 3:16)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

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A Discipleship Ministry  
or  
THE FELLOWSHIP

@

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### Our purpose

*We exist to*

**Glorify God**

By

*Reaching people for Christ and  
Helping believers grow to be like Him  
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

## HELPS

### 2 Peter 1:16-21 (NIV)

*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." [18] We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

*[19] And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20] Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

### Psalm 33:4

*All God's words are right and true - they can be trusted. The Bible is reliable because, unlike people, God does not lie, forget, change his words, or leave his promises unfulfilled. We can trust the Bible because it contains the words of a holy, trustworthy, and unchangeable God.*

### Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

### Hebrews 4:12 (Msg)

*God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it - no matter what.*

### 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

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2. What does God use to shape you for the tasks He has purposed for you? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
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## Monday:

### Authority of The Bible (2 Peter 1:16-21)

1. Peter gives two reasons why his writings have God's authority.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 1:16)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 1:21)
2. The Bible is described as a \_\_\_\_\_ that guides your understanding of Christ until you are ready to have Him in your \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Peter 1: 19)

### Reliability of The Bible. (Psalm 33:4)

1. All of God's words are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. God does not lie, forget, change His words, or leave his promises unfulfilled. How does that differ from people you know, including yourself?
- \_\_\_\_\_

### The Bible is a Lamp to Guide Us. (Psalm 119:105)

1. How can the Bible help you see your way through the entangling roots of false values and philosophies?
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. How will studying the Bible help you stay on the right path?
- \_\_\_\_\_

### The Bible Reveals Who You Are and What You Are Not.

(Hebrews 4:12)

1. As God's living, life changing, dynamic message cuts through your doubt and defenses, what does it reveal about who you are and what you need to become?
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you are ready to submit to the life changing message of the Bible, it can change you to the very core of your being. What carving and reshaping needs to happen in your life?
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Ignoring the Teachings of the Bible is Neglecting God.

(2 Timothy 2:15)

1. What results should you expect if you build your life on the Bible and build the Bible into your life?
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you neglect to study the Bible, thereby neglecting God, what things can you expect to be lulled into?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## HELPS

**Mark 13:31** (Msg)

*Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.*

**2 Timothy 3:6-7** (Msg)

*These are the kind of people who smooth-talk themselves into the homes of unstable and needy women and take advantage of them, women who, depressed by their sinfulness, take up with every new religious fad that calls itself "truth." [7] They get exploited every time and never really learn.*

**Jude 1:4** (Msg)

*What has happened is that some people have infiltrated our ranks (our Scriptures warned us this would happen), who beneath their pious skin are shameless scoundrels. Their design is to replace the sheer grace of our God with sheer license - which means doing away with Jesus Christ, our one and only Master.*

**Matthew 23:5-7** (Msg)

*Their lives are perpetual fashion shows, embroidered prayer shawls one day and flowery prayers the next. [6] They love to sit at the head table at church dinners, basking in the most prominent positions, [7] preening in the radiance of public flattery, receiving honorary degrees, and getting called 'Doctor' and 'Reverend.'*

**Jeremiah 26:2** (NIV)

*"This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word.*

**Psalms 25:10** (Msg)

*From now on every road you travel  
Will take you to God.  
Follow the Covenant signs;  
Read the charted directions.*

## Tuesday:

### The Bible's Truths Never Change. (Mark 13:31)

1. How dependable and permanent are the possessions you collect and how unchanging is the knowledge you learn in school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you ready to stop being shortsighted and spend more of your time learning the "truth" of the Bible and investing more of your energy and money in the ministry of God's work? \_\_\_\_\_  
What changes are necessary to start practicing this new priority?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Ignorance of What the Bible Says Makes Us Vulnerable to Deception. (2 Timothy 3:6-7; Jude 1:4)

1. Believers are eager to learn, which makes them a target for false teachers. As a believer, why do you need to study the Bible? Why be careful who you allow to help you study the Bible?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does spending more time reading the Bible (instead of books written by authors whose backgrounds and beliefs you know nothing about) help you identify false teachers?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Knowing What the Bible Says is Not Enough - You Must Live It. (Matthew 23:5-7)

1. What is the difference between being "religious" and being "Christ-like"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How can love for a position cause one to lose sight of love for Christ and others?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Wednesday:

### Do Not Ignore the Parts of the Bible That Make You Uncomfortable. (Jeremiah 26:2)

1. What is the easy thing to do if a certain subject gets a little close to home and makes you "uncomfortable"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are God's instructions to you about ignoring or repressing important parts of the Bible just to please someone?  
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### The Bible Teaches You The Difference Between Right and Wrong. (Psalm 25:10)

1. How can the Bible help you to combat the relentless appeals from various directions, such as television advertising, cults, false religions, and non Christian friends? (Psalm 25:10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you ever feel pulled in a dozen different directions as you attempt to make decisions about things such as family concerns, money management, or morals issues? When you are desperate to find the RIGHT way, where can you turn?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## HELPS

### John 20:30-31 (Msg)

*Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. [31] These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.*

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### John 16:13 (NIV)

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

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### Luke 24:1-9 (Msg)

*At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. [2] They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, [3] so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.*

*[4] They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. [5] The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? [6] He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee [7] that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" [8] Then they remembered Jesus' words.*

*[9] They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest.*

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### Isaiah 8:16 (Msg)

*Gather up the testimony, preserve the teaching for my followers,*

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## Thursday:

### The Bible Is An Accurate Record of What Jesus Taught and Did. (John 20:30-31)

1. If you want to know more about Jesus, study the Scriptures. Do you have a hunger to know Jesus better?  

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2. The Bible contains everything you need for assurance that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ. When you believe this and receive Jesus as your Lord, what does He give you? (John 20:31)  

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### Holy Spirit Helps You Understand The Bible. (John 16:13)

1. Holy Spirit guides you to understand truth about whom?  

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2. For the disciples "yet to come" (John 16:13) meant an understanding of the bigger picture of what was happening to Jesus, to them, and all around them. How is the Holy Spirit helping you to understand what God is doing around you, with you, and in you and how you are to plug in to what He is doing?  

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## Friday:

### The Bible Reveals A Living Christ (Luke 24:1-9)

1. Why should you not study the Bible as a mere historical document and go to church as if going to a memorial service for one who has died? (Luke 24:4-6)  

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2. Do you expect Jesus to be active in your daily life, active in your church, and are you looking for signs of His power at work around you? List some of the ways you have recently experienced the working power of the living Christ in your life?  

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### It Is Your Responsibility To See That The Bible Is Passed On. (Isaiah 8:16)

1. To "Bind up" or "to gather up" means to put the message in a form that can be passed on to the next generation and other generations to come. Are you having a part in teaching the Bible to your children and anyone who will listen? Are you seeing that it is preserved in their hearts and minds?  

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2. Would you be willing to buy a Bible and give it to someone who does not have a Bible? People in many countries today do not have Bibles to read. Would you give money to help send Bibles so that they may learn about the living Lord, in whom they can believe and have eternal life?  

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