

**AUTHORITY
OF SCRIPTURE**

GO CONFERENCE

AUGUST 2009

OM STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe that the Scriptures,
both the Old and New Testaments
in their original texts, are fully
inspired by the Holy Spirit, without
error, and are the final authority for
the Church**

THREE QUESTIONS

- 1. What do we mean by
“authority of scripture?”**
- 2. Do you believe in the
authority of scripture?**
- 3. How do we know that the
Bible is the Word of God?**

DEFINITION OF "THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE"

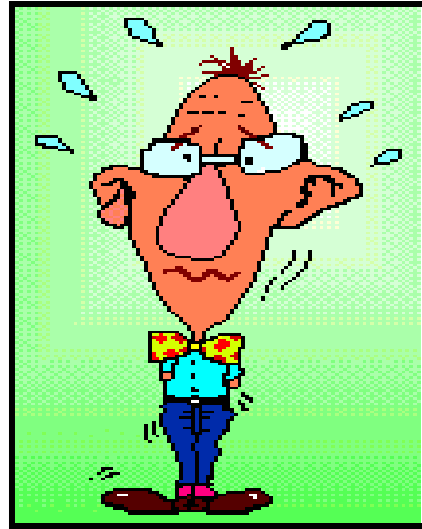
**The Bible, as the expression of
God's will to us, possesses the
right supremely to define**

- 1. what we are to believe, and**
- 2. how we are to live**

**The question is not,
What do Christians believe?**



The question is,
What do YOU believe?



**Several books claim
to be “The word of God”**

The Bible (Christians)

The Koran (Muslims)

The Book of Mormon (Mormons)

The New Kingdom Translation (JWs)

The Bhagavad Gita (Hindus)

How do YOU know that
the Bible is
the Word
of God?



It is important for Christians
not only know
what they believe
but also,
why they believe
what they believe.

ILLUSTRATION:

My last question
interviewing those
wanting to join OM.

So, then,
why do Christians
believe that the Bible
is the TRUE Word of God?

**The evidence for
the authority of the Bible
falls into 4 major categories**

- Internal evidence**
- External evidence**
- Bible prophecy**
- Power of the Word**

Evidence for the Authority of the Bible

**INTERNAL
EVIDENCE**

Internal Evidence is

the evidence that is found

within the Bible itself

Self-Proclamation #1

The Bible itself claims to be
The Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16

**All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and
training in righteousness**

**“God breathed” =
theopneustos
(theo-noose'-toes)**

- theo = God
- pneuo = wind, breath

2 Peter 1:20-21

- 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 (phero) by the Holy Spirit.**

NOTE→ That same word “phero” is used in Mark 2:3 when 4 men brought/carried a paralytic to Jesus.

“And they came, bringing (phero) to him a paralytic carried by four men.”

**Jesus Himself viewed
the Old Testament
as the Word of God
and quoted from it
throughout His ministry
on earth.**

Self-Proclamation #2

The unity of the Bible

The Bible covers hundreds of topics, yet it does not contradict itself.

It remains united in its theme.

"Well, what's so amazing about that?" you may ask.

Consider the following facts.

FIRST

the Bible was written over a span of fifteen hundred years

SECOND

it was written by more
than forty people
from every walk of life.

For example

- Moses was educated in Egypt and became a prophet over Israel.**
- Peter was a simple fisherman**
- Solomon was a king**
- Luke was a doctor**
- Amos was a shepherd**
- Matthew was a tax collector**

All the writers were of very
different occupations
and backgrounds

THIRD

It was written in
many different places

The Bible was written on three different continents

- **Asia**
- **Africa**
- **Europe**

- Moses wrote in the desert of Sinai
- Paul wrote in a prison in Rome
- Daniel wrote in exile in Babylon
- Ezra wrote in the ruined city of Jerusalem

FOURTH

It was written under many
different circumstances.

- David wrote during a time of war
- Jeremiah wrote at the sorrowful time of Israel's downfall
- Peter wrote while Israel was under Roman domination
- Joshua wrote while invading the land of Canaan

FIFTH

The writers had different purposes for writing.

- Isaiah wrote to warn Israel of God's coming judgment on their sin
- Matthew wrote to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah
- Zechariah wrote to encourage a disheartened Israel who had returned from Babylonian exile
- Paul wrote addressing problems in different Asian and European churches

**If we put all these factors together,
we see that the Bible was**

- written over fifteen hundred years
- by forty different authors
- at vastly different places
- under various circumstances
- and addressing a multitude of issues

And yet in the midst of all the diversity, there is amazing unity in the Bible.

Hundreds of controversial subjects are addressed and yet the writers do not contradict each other.

**And that unity is organized
around one theme:**

**God's amazing love for
and redemption of man
and all of creation.**

Evidence for the Authority of the Bible

**EXTERNAL
EVIDENCE**

External Evidence

- Evidence that is found outside the Bible such as
 - archeology
 - history
 - ancient manuscripts

**Renowned Jewish archaeologist
Nelson Gluek confidently said**

It...may be stated categorically
(without dispute of any kind)
that no archaeological discovery
has ever contradicted
a biblical reference.

Many archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or **exact detail** historical statements in the Bible.

After personally trying to shatter the historicity and validity of the Scriptures, I have come to the conclusion that they are historically trustworthy.

--Josh McDowell

**Evidence for
the Authority of the Bible**

**BIBLE
PROPHECY**

Bible prophecy

Bible prophecy
can only be explained
by divine revelation
and inspiration

Unique among all books ever written,
the Bible accurately foretells specific
events
in detail
many years,
sometimes centuries,
before they occur.

There are 333
specific OT prophecies
containing 456 specific details about
the Messiah,
which were fulfilled
in the first coming
of Jesus Christ.

**Evidence for
the Authority of the Bible**

**POWER
OF
THE WORD**

"IT IS WRITTEN..."

**Jesus' 40 days in the
wilderness
being tempted by Satan**

Matthew 4:1-11

Luke 4:1-13

CONCLUSION

The term “authority of scripture” means this:

The authority of the Triune God exercised through the writings of the 66 books of our Holy Bible.

I have learned to ascribe
the honor of infallibility
(to the Bible).

I am profoundly convinced
that none of these writers
has erred.

—*Martin Luther*

If someone ever asks you,
“What makes you think your Bible is
the true Word of God?”

Will you have an answer
for them?

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**A Soul Food
Publication**

You can find this
presentation online at

www.chipkirk.com

The End