

We Believe I – We Believe the Bible

Equip Class: Lesson 4 of 4

Memory Hook: Received. Inspired. Inerrant. Infallible.

I. The Bible Is Received

- **Definition:** God's people recognized the right books and preserved a reliable text.
- **Right Books:** Which writings belong to Scripture?
 - Old Testament: God gave His Word through Moses and the prophets. (Deuteronomy 31:24; Luke 24:44)
 - New Testament: Christ authorized the apostles. (John 14:26; 2 Peter 3:16)
- **Question:** Did the church decide which books became Scripture?
 - God gave the books their authority; the church recognized what He had given.
 - Recognition does not _____ the thing recognized.
- **Reliable Text:** Were the words faithfully transmitted?
 - Transmission = copying and preserving the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words.
 - Textual criticism = comparing surviving copies to recover the earliest wording.
 - Most variants are minor; no essential doctrine depends on an uncertain reading.
 - Jigsaw puzzle: the whole picture plus duplicate pieces—not a telephone game.

II. The Bible Is Inspired

- **Scriptures:** 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 5:18
- **Question:** What does “inspired” mean?
 - God-breathed: Scripture is breathed _____ by God.
- **Double Agency:** Fully human authors; a fully divine result.
 - God used the writers' personalities, vocabulary, research, and circumstances.
- **Extent:** Inspiration is verbal and plenary.
 - Verbal = it extends to the _____.
 - Plenary = it includes every _____.

III. The Bible Is Inerrant

- **Definition:** Scripture contains no error in anything it affirms.
- **Scriptures:** Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6; John 17:17
- **Illustration:** The completed twenty-question test.
 - Inerrancy looks at the finished paper: every answer is correct—20 out of 20.
- **Question:** Is the Bible true only about spiritual things?
 - It tells the truth in every area it intends to affirm.
 - Genre, rounded numbers, and ordinary observational language are not errors.
- **Question:** Does human authorship require error?
 - Finitude is not the same thing as error.
 - God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19)

IV. The Bible Is Infallible

- **Definition:** Scripture cannot err, be broken, or finally fail.
- **Scriptures:** John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 12:49
- **Inerrancy and Infallibility:**
 - Inerrancy = Scripture does not err.
 - Infallibility = Scripture _____ err or finally fail.
- **Question:** Why can we depend on the Bible?
 - It comes from the unfailing God who cannot lie.
 - Jesus received Scripture as the Father's unbroken truth.
 - I trust the Bible because I trust the Savior who affirmed it.
- **Response:**
 - Received—treasure it. Inspired—submit to it.
 - Inerrant—believe it. Infallible—depend on it.
- **Final Word:** Isaiah 40:8
 - *"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."*

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