



Midweek Study

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God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

The Miracle of the Bible

ONE OR THE OTHER...

- 1) **The Word of God** has first place in your life and it is slowly conforming your life to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29); or
- 2) **The World** has first place in your life and it is squeezing you into its mold. (Romans 12:2)

"Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives."

"The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."

I must accept the Bible as my infallible standard of truth. The trouble with most Christians is that they base their choices on false authorities, such as:

- (a) Traditions – "we've always done it this way."
- (b) Culture – "everybody's doing it."
- (c) Reason – "It seems logical."
- (d) Emotion – "It just feels right."
- (e) Religion – "I was taught this in my church."

All five of these will lead you in the wrong direction. You must have a standard that will never mislead you. Only the Bible meets that standard. **"Every word of God is flawless"** (Prov. 30:5, NIV).

6 Great Attacks on the Bible

1. **Atheists & Agnostics DESPISE** the Bible – They believe the Bible is not true.
2. **Cults DISTORT** the Bible – They add to the Bible (Jehovah's Witnesses & Mormons).
3. Some **Believers DENY** the Bible – They take away from the Bible (Liberal Protestants).
4. Some **Believers DISREGARD** the Bible – They ignore it, and don't read it.
5. Some **Believers DISRESPECT** the Bible –
 - Catholics hold the Pope and Traditions higher than the Bible (see Council of Trent)
 - Charismatics hold their visions and dreams higher than the Bible
6. Some **Believers DISOBEY** the Bible – They read it, but don't intend to live it.

For the last two generations a debate has been raging in the Western world over the question: **IS THE BIBLE WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS TODAY REALLY THE WORD OF GOD.** CONSERVATIVE AND BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS ANSWER THIS QUESTION in 9 simple words: **"GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE IT, THAT SETTLES IT."**

However, many have not been satisfied with this simple answer and have posed this question: "How can we know our Bible is God's Word when we do not have the original autographs? The answer to this question can be summarized under the heading of several MIRACLES:

MIRACLE #1 – God's Amazing Book is THE WORD OF GOD. The Bible is uniquely different from any book in history, because of the way it came into existence. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 – "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (theopneustos) and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

MIRACLE #2 – God's Amazing Book is THE WORD OF GOD... WRITTEN IN THE WORDS OF MEN. Though humanly penned, the 40 biblical writers were superintended by the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing that the words they wrote were the words of God Himself. *2 Peter 1:20-21 - knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

MIRACLE #3 – God's Amazing Book is a PERFECT BOOK. How could God use weak and infallible human beings to produce a perfect Book? The answer lies in the overriding sovereignty and power of God. *Read Jeremiah 32:17. "Inerrancy means that when all facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything they teach, whether that teaching has to do with doctrine, history, science, geography, geology, or other disciplines of knowledge."*

MIRACLE #4 – God's Amazing Book was Approved by Jesus Himself. In *Matthew 5:18* He declares, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." A "jot" or "tittle" is like the dot over an "i" or an apostrophe in English – that is, the least stroke. 1904 times alone in the Old Testament you read expressions like this: "Thus saith the Lord." or "The Word of the Lord came." (Read *Matthew 19:4-5, 22:29, 23:35; Mark 7:13; Luke 24:44; John 5:39, 20:35; Joshua 24:2; Hosea 1:1; Jeremiah 1:4; Hebrews 1:2*).

MIRACLE #5 – God's Amazing Book has UNEXPLAINABLE POWER. (Read *Hebrews 4:12*). **Martin Luther rightly declared... The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.** The Word of God is living. It's not just alive metaphorically, but it is living in reality. Every book of the Bible (66 Books; 1,189 Chapters; 31,132 verses; 773,692 words) **Luke 1:37 (KJV)** For with God nothing shall be impossible. *(Amplified) no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.*

MIRACLE #6 – God's Amazing Book is ONE BOOK ABOUT ONE PERSON. "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." (*John 5:39*) "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (*Luke 24:27*).

MIRACLE # 7- God's Amazing Book Has Been DIVINELY PRESERVED. "A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put." Bernard Ramm

Dr. Robert G. Lee once said, "The Bible is a book beyond all books, as a river is beyond a creek.

The Bible is a book above and beyond all books, as the sun is above and beyond a candle in brightness.

"The Bible is above and beyond all books, as the wings of an eagle are above the wings of a sparrow in strength.

It is supernatural in origin, Eternal in duration, Inexpressible in value, Immeasurable in influence, Infinite in scope,

Divine in authorship, Human in penmanship, Regenerative in power, Infallible in authority,

Universal in interest, Personal in application, Inspired in totality!

"This is the book that has walked more paths, Traveled more highways, Knocked at more doors, And spoken to more people in their native tongue than any other book this world has ever known or ever will know."