



*Teach The Word, Live The Word, Share The Word*

## What We Believe About the Bible

### Has God Spoken?

That's really the only question worth starting with. It opens up the door to all the other important questions:

- Are we here just by ourselves with no help at all?
- Is there really a God in heaven Who is watching? SomeOne Who started it all?
- And if so, has He spoken to us?
- Has He given us any clues as to Who He is and What He is like? Does He want to speak to us?
- Does He want us to speak to Him?
- Does He want to have a relationship with us?
- And if He has spoken, has He spoken clearly? Can we understand what He has spoken?
- **If God has **not** spoken, then we're on our own, and we just have to do the best with what we receive in this life.**
- **But if God **has** spoken....if He **has** spoken....then run as fast as you can to get a copy of His Words. Sell all you have to get just a chance to read them.**

### **We Believe God Has Spoken. And we believe the Bible is what He has spoken.**

- **Dual Authorship** - God spoke through men. He used their personalities and experiences and used their very hands to write out His words, but those words are, word-for-word, His very words.-
- **Inspired** – God inspired men to write the words He wanted them to write. They were not their own thoughts. They are totally trustworthy to be directly from God. Therefore, they apply directly to our lives today, even though they may have been written 6,000 years ago. And not only were the words inspired, but also the men who decided which books would make up the Bible were inspired, too. They were led by God to determine, in a logical and normal way, which letters and writings to include in the canon of the Bible, and which to exclude.

- **Sola Scriptura** – There is no other book like this one. There is no other authority which competes with this one. The Book of Mormon does not. The Koran does not. There is no other word from God which would negate anything in the Bible. If you ask a Catholic educated in their own belief system, if they believe in Sola Scriptura, they will tell you no. They believe that the Bible is the Words of God, yes. But they also believe that the writings and proclamations of the Church Fathers of the past carry more weight than the Bible. They believe church fathers decided what books should be in the Bible, therefore church fathers have more authority than the Bible.

In **“Seven Reasons You Can Trust the Bible”, by Erwin Lutzer, Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, gives the following reasons why you can trust that the Bible is the very words of God:**

1. The Bible claims to be God’s Word
2. History Confirms the Bible’s Reliability
3. Bible prophecies Prove its Truthfulness
4. Jesus Himself affirmed the Bible’s Authority & Truth
5. Science supports Biblical Creation
6. God People, by His Providence, Recognized the Canon
7. The Bible has Power to Change Lives

**Our favorite Bible passages on which we stake our faith:**

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”* **Hebrews 4:12&13**

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* **II Timothy 3:16&17**

*“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”* **Psalms 19:7-11**

...and all of **Psalms 119**

**Therefore.....This is What We Do at Southside Bible Because of What We Believe about the Bible:**

*Learn about it...* “Bruce and Stan’s Guide to the Bible” – Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz, Harvest House publishers – just stuff about the Bible - take the little test below.

*Preach it....*Verse-by-verse

*Teach it....*all ages

*Read it....*Every day

*Live it....*unflinchingly. This is really, really hard. It hurts. It makes us unpopular. It is the first thing we tend to avoid. It’s the last thing we admit we are not doing when all falls apart.

*Memorize it....*oh, yes, you can

*Speak it....*why say meaningless things? Speak scripture and speak the name of Jesus. Often.

**A Little Test of Facts About the Bible**

66

40

1500

1189

33,173

39

27

1

4,000

100

1455AD

6 Billion

2,000

Christ

***Answer Key on back***

66	books in the Bible
40	authors
1500	years to write
1189	chapters
33,173	verses
39	Old Testament Books
27	New Testament Books
1	Bible author who was not Jewish
4,000	Time period covered by Old Testament
100	Time period covered by New Testament
1455AD	Invention of Printing Press
6 Billion	Copies of the Bible since then
2,000	Different languages the Bible is published in today
Christ	The theme of the whole Bible.

#### **A Few More Things:**

- If your house catches on fire, grab your Bible. It is the most valuable thing you own.
- At Southside Pastor Ken preaches from the New King James Version of the Bible, but we don't think that's the only good version.
  - Reading your Bible every day is essential
  - Reading your Bible every day is simple.
  - But reading your Bible every day is not easy.
    - What does it say? (observe)
    - What does it mean? (ask questions)
  - What does it mean to me? (come to conclusions)