

TOPIC Is the Bible True To Me?

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THEME Common Questions We Need Handles To DATE

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Are there times when you doubt the Word of God because things did not come true for you? Expounding on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Ps Jeffrey explains why the Word of God remains true and relevant for us today.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE TO ME?

1. The Bible is the Inspired word of God

All scripture is inspired by God. The word "inspires" refers to the very essence of God and it is translated as the "breath of God".

The Bible tells us that the Word is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16); it value adds to our body, life, spirit and soul. Every time we allow the Holy Spirit and scriptures to speak to us, it profits our mind (our thinking), emotion (how we feel) and will (how we make decisions). And when you encounter the inspired word of God, you encounter Jesus Christ.

2. The Bible Clarifies our understanding of God

The more clearly we understand the Bible, the better we will understand God (I.e. the Bible helps us to understand who God is).

2 Timothy 3:16 provides a framework in which we can clarify our doubts about the Bible. Using an example of struggling with a financial issue, Ps Jeffrey shows us how we can use the 4 ways highlighted by Paul to clarify our doubts about the Word.

2 Timothy 3:16	What does it mean?	Example: Struggling with a financial
		issue

Teaching	To impart the knowledge of God	What does the Bible say about money/finance? - Gen 22:14, Phil 4:19, Heb 13:5, Prov 21:20
Reproof	To correct sins	Are there sins that I need to repent of? - Love for money, overspending, debts
Correction	To right the wrong	How do I right the wrong? - Through confession, pursing God, paying off debts and restricting spending
Training in righteousness	The overall process of becoming more like Jesus	How can I be more like Christ? - Having accountability, learning to be content and to be a blessing to others

3. The Bible Teaches us to be like Christ

The end goal of the Bible is for us to become more like Christ. In 2 Timothy 3:17, it says that "the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work". At times, the process of becoming "complete" and "equipped" may be challenging, but we should remember that the outcome of who we become in this process is to be like Christ, which is eternal. Through reading the scripture, we not only gain knowledge, we also become teachers of the Word.

Men and women of God (e.g. Job, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Barak, Thomas etc.) have doubted God's Word, but when they learn to trust in God, he credits it to them as righteousness. While doubts or struggles may arise in the course of serving or reading the word, Ps Jeffrey encourages everyone to have faith in the Word of God, to share your struggles with someone and have them journey alongside you.

CONCLUSION

We can trust the Bible because we trust in the author of the Bible (God), as he understands the situations that we are going through (Hebrews 4:15-16). We should also stay committed to the Word because the Word is eternal, true and worthy of our trust.

QUESTIONS

1. Think about a recent decision or response that you made. To what extent do you think it was informed by Scripture?

2. Reflecting on your own journey, when was the last time you encountered God while reading the scriptures? How did that help you deepen your walk with Christ?

3. Has there been any recent or past situations that caused you to doubt God's word? In what ways can you apply the framework of Training, Reproof, Correction and Training in Righteousness to help you clarify those doubts and anchor upon God's truths?