

We All Choose to Trust

- Every day, all day, we trust people and things.
- We cannot exist without trusting someone.
- One of the most important choices--perhaps even *the* most important choice--we make is who to trust.

Trust and Life's Big Questions

- Who are we?
- Where did we come from?
- Why are we here?
- Who is God?
- What happens after I die?

Who Do I Trust?

- Myself?
- Another finite, sinful person?
- God?

Can We Prove the Bible Is What It Says It Is?

- No. How would you?
- But, we do not have to prove something in order to *know* it is true.

Knowledge = a justified, true belief

In order to say we know something,

- We have to believe what we're saying,
- It must be true, and
- We have to have good reason for our claim.

Knowledge = a justified, true belief

"I can say I know it's raining because I look outside and see that it's raining. I can't say I know it's raining because I just washed my car, and it always rains after I wash my car. It may actually be raining, but I can't say I know so if that's my reason. My belief may be true, but it remains unjustified."

**Knowledge = a justified,
true belief**

"We don't have to prove the Bible, but we do need justification, some reason that turns our true belief into knowledge. If no amount of evidence will do the trick, what ultimately will tip the scales so we can claim we know the Bible is God's Word? What justifying reason can we give?"

Michael Wittmer, *The Bible Explainer*, 151-52

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**How Can I Know the
Bible Is True?**

"What justifying reason can we give?"

- The Bible is self-authenticating.
- It rings true, and an honest reader recognizes this.

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"We rely on self-authentication with everyone we know well. When we hear our spouse or parent on the phone, we don't ask a series of verification questions. If it's really you, who's your favorite teacher?... We immediately know our loved ones, unless they have an identical twin that sounds like them! God is one of a kind, though, so we don't need to be suspicious. When we read the Bible, we know we're hearing Him."

Michael Wittmer, *The Bible Explainer*, 152

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How Can I Know the Bible Is True?

- But we are sinful and thus blind and deaf to the truth of the Bible.
- The Holy Spirit opens our eyes and ears to recognize the truth.

How Can I Know the Bible Is True?

"The same Spirit...who has spoken through the mouths of the prophets must penetrate into our hearts to persuade us that they faithfully proclaimed what had been divinely commanded."
John Calvin

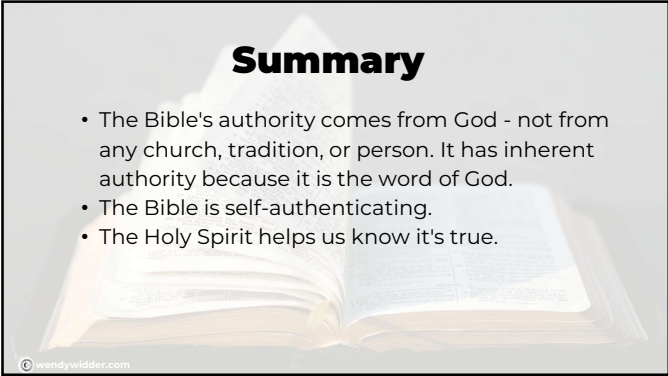
Summary

- The Bible's authority comes from God - not from any church, tradition, or person. It has inherent authority because it is the word of God.

"We receive [the Bible] as the word of God because of what it is, not because of what we make of it."
Michael Horton, *Pilgrim Theology*, 53


Summary

- The Bible's authority comes from God - not from any church, tradition, or person. It has inherent authority because it is the word of God.
- The Bible is self-authenticating.
- The Holy Spirit helps us know it's true.



Reflection

- Describe your knee-jerk reactions to various kinds of authority—employer, parents, church, government, God.
- Where do you find answers you trust to life's Big Questions? Why do you trust this source?



NEXT UP...

What Is the Bible?

Lesson 6
How Is the Bible True?

