



# Understanding the Authority of Scripture

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. – 2 Timothy 3:16*

## What Does “Authority of Scripture” Mean?

The authority of Scripture means the **Bible is the final and trustworthy source of truth** for what we believe and how we live. It carries God's authority because it is **inspired by him**, not merely written by people. To follow Jesus is to submit our lives to God's Word.

## Why Is the Bible Authoritative? It's...

**Inspired by God:** The Bible is God-breathed, meaning it's written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. — 2 Peter 1:20–21*

**Without Error in Its Purpose:** Scripture is true and reliable in revealing who God is, who we are, and how to live in relationship with him.

*The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. — Psalm 19:7–9*

**Clear and Understandable:** God has spoken in a way that real people, in every generation, can grasp and apply.

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. — Psalm 119:105*

**Sufficient:** The Bible gives us everything we need to know for salvation and spiritual life.

*You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:15–17*

**Powerful and Active:** It speaks to our hearts, convicts us of sin, encourages us, and shapes our character.

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. — Hebrews 4:12*

## How Does This Shape Our Lives? It...

**Guides Decisions:** Scripture helps us discern right from wrong and live wisely.

**Strengthens Faith:** Through Scripture, we grow in our knowledge and trust in God.

**Centers Our Beliefs:** Rather than opinions or culture, we let God's Word define our worldview.

**Nourishes Spiritually:** Reading and reflecting on Scripture draws us closer to God.



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## Key Takeaway

The Bible isn't just an ancient book—it's **God's living word**, given to lead us into truth, freedom, and a strong relationship with him. As followers of Jesus, we don't just read Scripture—we **submit to it, live by it, and trust it fully**.