

## The Foundations of Life, Part 4

### **Only One Bible**

Noted Bible teacher E. Schuyler English told of Michael Billester, a Bible distributor who visited a small hamlet in Poland shortly before World War II. Billester gave a Bible to a villager, who was converted by reading it. The new believer then passed the Book on to others. The cycle of conversions and sharing continued until 200 people had become believers through that one Bible. When Billester returned in 1940, this group of Christians met together for a worship service in which he was to preach the Word. He normally asked for testimonies, but this time he suggested that several in the audience recite verses of Scripture. One man stood and said, 'Perhaps we have misunderstood. Did you mean verses or chapters?' These villagers had not memorized a few select verses of the Bible but whole chapters and books. Thirteen people knew Matthew, Luke, and half of Genesis. Another person had committed to memory the Psalms. That single copy of the Bible given by Billester had done its work. Transformed lives bore witness to the power of the Word. *Source unknown*

### **The Authority and Revelatory Power Of The Word**

The bible indicates plainly that there is one supreme, invisible influence by which God did in fact control, direct and communicate with the spirits and minds of the men by whom the bible was written. This invisible influence is the Holy Spirit-- God's own Spirit.

### **2 Peter 1:20,21**

*20First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,*

*21because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.\**

The Greek word translated " moved by " means more literally " borne along by ",or we might say, " directed in their course by. " In other words, just as men today control the course of their satellites in space by the interplay of radio and electronics, so God controlled the men who wrote the bible by the interplay of His Divine Spirit with the spiritual and mental facilities of man. In the face of contemporary scientific evidence, to deny the possibility of God's doing this is merely to give expression to prejudice.

The authority of the Scriptures is balanced and interpreted best by no private interpretations, or tradition without reason and proper cultural understanding. The Scripture is balanced by the our understanding of the traditional teachings of the Church and the Reason or divine and human collaboration of the brethren. A three legged stool so to speak as the Anglican Tradition has become known.

## **The Word is Eternal and Authoritative, Tested By Time**

### **Psalm 119:89**

*89The Lord exists for ever; your word is firmly fixed in heaven.*

### **Psalm 119:160**

*160The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures for ever.*

Here David emphasizes that the Bible is not the product of time but of eternity. It contains the eternal mind and counsel of God, formed before the beginning of time or the foundation of the world. Out of eternity it has been projected through human channels into this world of time, but when time and the world pass away, the mind and counsel of God revealed through Scripture will still stand unmoved and unchanged. The same thought is expressed by Christ Himself.

### **Veracity**

'I have come to the conviction that no man knows enough to attack the veracity of the Old Testament. Every time when anyone has been able to get together enough documentary 'proofs' to undertake an investigation, the biblical facts in the original text have victoriously met the test." - Prof. Robert Dick Wilson of Princeton, who held several doctorates and knew 45 languages and dialects of the Near East. *As quoted in R. Pache, The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture.*

### **Jesus and the Word**

Jesus Christ taught that the Scriptures were inspired by God. He also affirmed that even the smallest detail of the Word was important.

### **Matthew 5:18**

*18For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,\*  
not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.*

He also related that He received the Word from the Father.

### **John 5:19,30,31**

*19Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father\* does, the Son does likewise.*

*30'I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

*31'If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.*

## **God's Word is Effectively At Work In The Believer's Life**

God's Word is authoritative and correct. However, the source of the Word is of vital importance in our spiritual development. To many times we either read half quotes, or think we know who said what in the scriptures, but to be precise sometimes has its advantages. To kind of get the point listen to this little story I recently came across.

### **Beware of Quotes**

You can't quote the Bible indiscriminately. I remember the story of two lawyers during a trial. One thought he would make a great impression on the jury by quoting from the Bible. So he said concerning his opponent's client, 'We have it on the highest authority that it has been said, 'All that a man has will he give for his skin.'" But the other lawyer knew the Bible better. He said, ' I am very much impressed by the fact that my distinguished colleague here regards as the highest authority the one who said, 'All that a man has will he give for his skin. ' You will find that this saying come from the Book of Job, and the one who utters it is the devil. And that is whom he regards as the highest authority!" - Ray Stedman *Source unknown*

### **God's Word is Effective it produces**

1 Thessalonians 2:13

*13 We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.*

### **Your Response to the Word Determines its Effect.**

There is no difference in the message preached; the message is the same to all men. The difference lies in the reaction of those who hear. For those who react in one way, the message appears to be mere foolishness; for those who react in the opposite way, the message becomes the saving power of God actually experienced in their lives.

### **Some Biblical Examples:**

Judas reacted to the conviction of God after his betrayal and foolishly hung himself. Peter understood his failure after remembering the Lord's prophetic words of his failure, and instead of foolishly giving up, instead turned to the Lord. Twelve spies in the Old Testament looked upon the promise land and didn't focus on the promises, but the feared the inhabitants. Joshua and Caleb rather received God's promises and saw through the giants of the land and instead believed by faith God's promises. They would walk into the land and possess it, while the fearful spies never were able to receive what God had for them.

**Let the Word of God Inspire Your Daily Walk.**

## **1 Thessalonians 1:3,4**

*3We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*4For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,*

*5because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. NIV*

### **Word and Inspiration**

Great composers do not set down to work because they are inspired, but become inspired because they are working. Beethoven, Wagner, Bach, and Mozart settled down day after day to the job in hand with as much regularity as an accountant settles down each day in his figures. They didn't waste time waiting for inspiration. *Ernest Newman, in Bits and Pieces, September, 1990*