

Christian Fundamentals

The Bible

Before we move on to some of the other fundamental truths of the Christian faith, we must declare the Bible to be the inspired word of God. That is totally fundamental to evangelical Christianity, true Christianity, and without such an absolute belief in the authority of the Bible, what might be called the Holy Scriptures, it is impossible to have a basis for all the other fundamentals which we will look at. It might be considered a very extreme view to take, as many in modern times question the authority of the Bible and have done their best to bring its integrity into disrepute. For the Christian there can be no doubt that the Bible is God's inspired word and is *"Able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"*. This is a quotation from Paul's letter to Timothy and at the time Paul was referring to the Old Testament, the law and the prophets, which would have been available to Timothy. Now in modern times we have the availability of the New Testament which adds to the fulness of God's word to the world. To the Jews, the children of Israel, the Old Testament, the law and the prophets, and the history too, was the word of God and for them it was totally and absolutely true. Jesus was a Jew, in His nationality. Although the gospel of Jesus Christ is for the whole world, the Old Testament is also relevant as the word of God to all Christians, indeed the gospel can be found within its pages; it declares Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, His church and His second coming, all within its pages. Much of the writings of the New Testament continues to fall back on the authority of the Old Testament and is confirmed by the words said by the prophets. Peter in his second letter says, *"We have a more sure word of prophecy"*, thus linking the two testaments together as the Bible, the word of God. Many Christians find the Bible to be a very wonderful book and the more they read it, seeking help and instruction from the Holy Spirit, the more accurate and helpful it becomes in their lives. All Christians, however young or old, need to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as they read, if they have access to a Bible, the word of God. When they do, they will learn the truth of the eternal God revealed within the Bible and be amazed at His wonderful goodness and nature. The Almighty God, the only one God, who we mentioned in part 1, is wonderfully able to reveal Himself, His will and His purpose within the Bible and to instruct His people in all they need to know to follow Him unto life everlasting. The Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth and so the Bible is one of the means, through the teaching of the Spirit of God, by which we are led into all truth that we may know and understand the things which are freely given us of God. This will come later when we look of the Holy Spirit in our fundamentals, but we are told that the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. We are told they are spiritually discerned and therefore as God is a Spirit, the things related to Him are Spiritual, and therefore we as natural human beings need to be taught by the Spirit of God having been brought into the kingdom of God through new birth.