

distinct in that it is indeed the Word of God to man (2 Timothy 3:14-16).

The writings of man may amuse, educate, or even enlighten in some ways, but the Word of God has the power to change lives forever. The Bible is the word from the mind and heart of the Creator. These words carry a power that is unparalleled by any other written work.

When a person opens his heart to reading, learning, and studying the Scriptures, he will begin to see himself and God like never before. He will understand his true condition—sinful before a holy God—and the gift of forgiveness through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. He will begin to grasp the power that enables him to turn from sin and enjoy a life of joy. He will see a change in his life as he goes deeper into God’s Word over time. What an amazing Book!



Second Peter 1:19 is the biblical explanation of the process of inspiration. Note the stress: “made more sure,” “pay attention.”

Peter validated the Transfiguration showing the validity of the Scriptures. The Old Testament prophecies are validated by the Transfiguration. If the Transfiguration is a certain event then the Scriptures are truly the Word of God.


Peter’s emphasis is that God has provided us with the lamp of the revealed Word of God (the Scriptures). If we pay attention to the Scriptures we will be able to walk safely.

If we neglect the Scriptures we will be engulfed by darkness and will be in great danger. This offers Christians great confidence in their faith. In this lesson and the next, we will examine specific supernatural characteristics that are found in the Bible.

If the Bible contains certain characteristics that surpass human abilities, such supernatural characteristics reflect its origin. If it has a supernatural origin then it must be from God!

THE REVELATIONS CONCERNING GOD AND JESUS CHRIST, INDICATES SUPERNATURAL ELEMENTS

There is a unique portrait of God, painted by the Scriptures, that exceeds any mortal representation of deity (Psalms 96:4-5).



TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. What is the greatest difference between man’s writings and the Bible?
2. What is the greatest proof, in your opinion, of biblical Inspiration?
3. What is the greatest “change” you have seen caused by the Bible?
4. What is the greatest obligation toward the Bible in 2 Peter 1:19?

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The Person of Christ, likewise, surpasses any earthly depiction. No human author could ever have imagined a figure such as Christ Jesus (John 7:46). No one ever lived, suffered, or loved as Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Word and as such is proof sufficient for the inspiration of the Bible.

THE REVELATION CONCERNING MANKIND, REVEALS A SUPERNATURAL CHARACTER OF THE BIBLE

All of earth's religions and philosophers leave mankind seeking answers. Nothing but the Bible, the Creator's own Word, provides the proper response to man's questions. There is not another book that speaks as the Bible concerning mankind and there will never be another volume to appear as the Bible.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION IS INCONCEIVABLE TO THE HUMAN MIND

Human systems try to offer a system of salvation but they fail to provide peace of mind and inner-contentment. The Bible denounces, as only God can, our guilt and helplessness and declares our consequent eternity (Romans 11:32-36).

THE PREDICTIVE PROPHECIES ARE SUPERNATURAL EVIDENCES OF DIVINE INSPIRATION

Only an omniscient God is able to predict accurately the unknown future. Deuteronomy 18:20-22 offers a test to determine the integrity of prophesy. A failure of the prophecy or ambiguous predictions are not true of the Bible. The predictive prophecies of the Bible are specific and true. The Bible has an amazing quantity of predictive prophecies. Significant events are announced a long time in advance (Cyrus; the Virgin Birth). Minute details are fulfilled in incredible fashion (the birth of Christ in Bethlehem instead of Jerusalem). Many circumstances are foretold that only God could foretell (the Destruction of Tyre, Babylon, etc.). Facts have never proven even one biblical prophecy wrong!

THE POWER OF THE BIBLE TO CHANGE LIVES INDICATES ITS SUPERNATURAL ORIGIN

The Bible possesses an AWESOME power (Isaiah 55:10-11;

Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Philippians 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 1:16; 10:17; John 5:24). Thousands have come into contact with the Bible and their lives have changed dramatically (Philippians 2:15-16).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS...

These characteristics are supernatural in nature. The Bible is inspired of God because it possesses these five undeniable supernatural characteristics. These are not reproducible in any other literary work.

- ⇒ The sublime revelation of God and Christ.
- ⇒ The frank discussion of humanity.
- ⇒ The plan of salvation.
- ⇒ The predictable prophecies.
- ⇒ The power to change untold thousands into godly people.

Those who are honestly seeking for a way of peace, joy, and fulfillment must admit the reality of these points and find contentment by obeying.

The Bible possesses supernatural characteristics; therefore, it must be from God. If it is from God, then it must be inspired and obeyed. Believe the Bible for what it is...It is the revealed, inspired, Word of God.

HOW DOES THE BIBLE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES?

One of the greatest feats God performs on a regular basis is that of a changed life. Every year, around the world, untold millions of lives are delivered from afflictions such as substance abuse, destructive/self-destructive habits, emotional wounds, etc. This is in addition to the multitudes set free from the bondage of lying, stealing, anger, and other similar types of "common sins." Those who have been changed experience a real power of God that accompanies new life in Christ.

God's primary tool for affecting change is the Bible. What is it about this collection of writings that empowers lives to be changed in such amazing ways?

The key to understanding this power is to grasp that the Bible is the Word of God and not just a collection of inspirational writings that were penned by great philosophers. The Bible is