

# Is the Bible or Jesus the Basis of our Faith?

Some, while professing the Bible, are promoting that the basis of our faith is Jesus and not Scripture (the written word). We must show people Jesus and His love, not doctrine is the thinking. At first that might seem Christ focused, but it is not complete. How can we fully know Jesus and His love (gospel) apart from the revelation of Scripture? Apart from Scripture (doctrine) you will create “another Jesus” – one of your own imagination.

Jesus is not here walking with us today. It is now His Holy Scripture that reveals the Lord. So the basis of our faith must come from the Bible. But the central subject of the Bible is the Savior, Christ Jesus, upon whom our faith must rest – according to the Bible. As the children’s chorus says: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

## The Lord Jesus used Scripture to reveal Himself and Truth

1. **Scriptures reveal the Lord Jesus.** “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the **scriptures** the things concerning himself.” *Luke 24:27*
2. **Christ used Scripture to reach the heart.** “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he **opened to us the scriptures?**” *Luke 24:32*
3. **Scriptures concern Jesus.** “...All things must be fulfilled, which were **written** in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the **scriptures.**” *Luke 24:44-45*
4. **Jesus Christ matches Scripture.** “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the **book** it is **written** of me,) to do thy will, O God.” *Heb. 10:7 (quoting the Scripture in Psalms 40:7)*
5. **Search the Scriptures and you will find Christ Jesus.** “Search the **scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of me.” *John 5:39*
6. **Christ communicates His heart and self in a written book.** “Saying, ... What thou seest, **write in a book**, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia.” *Rev. 1:11*
7. **Jesus believed that ignorance of Scripture leads to error.** “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the **scriptures**, nor the power of God.” *Matt. 22:29*
8. **The Lord pointed to the reading of Scripture for truth.** “Have ye not **read this scripture,**” and “Have ye not **read.**” *Mark 12:10 / Matt. 12:3, 5, 19:4, 22:31 / Mark 12:26*
9. **Scripture was Jesus’ authority.** “It is **written**, Man shall not live by bread alone...It is **written** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God...it is **written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God...It is **written** in the prophets...” *Matt. 4:4,7,10 / John 6:45*

Yes, the written word is the revelation of the living Word – the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave us the Bible so the Bible could reveal God – in His Son, Christ the Lord.

## Are the Scriptures All Sufficient?

The above doesn't mean you have to open a Bible every time you witness. But it does mean that *what* you're witnessing is the truth of the Bible's revelation of the Lord. Paul didn't open the Bible on Mars Hill but he did give them the truth of the Bible: Jesus and the resurrection. Peter preached to the Gentiles that the prophets (OT Scriptures) give witness to the Lord Jesus for remission of sins. (Acts 17:31, 10:43) Paul witnessed in synagogues and there he did open the Scriptures to show Jesus was the Christ. The revelation of the Bible was used with the unsaved whether the Bible was opened or not.

### The revelation of Christ Jesus is by word – not sight or feeling

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my **word**, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his **word** were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Acts 11:1 ...Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the **word** of God.

Acts 13:26 ...Whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the **word** of this salvation sent.

Acts 13:49 And the **word** of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

1Peter 1:23, 25\_ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the **word** of God, which liveth and abideth for ever...But the **word** of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the **word** which by the gospel is preached unto you.

### The “Word of the Lord” is for believers also in their lives

It's one thing to believe the Bible is of God but it's another to believe it's sufficient for the whole Christian life beyond being saved. It's true the Bible doesn't tell us every secret of God but what it does tell us is complete to equip us for *every* good work. From the church to marriage to work to understanding God, it has everything we need for now to be instructed in living fully for God by His Spirit. (Deut. 29:29 / 2Tim. 3:15-17)

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' **doctrine**...

Acts 17:11 ...They received the **word** with all readiness of mind, and searched the **scriptures** daily...

Col. 3:16 Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another.

2Tim. 4:2 Preach the **word**; ... exhort with all longsuffering and **doctrine**.

1Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the **word**, that ye may grow thereby.

Rev. 19:13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The **Word** of God.

### “The faith in Christ”: four “it is” in Scripture

“It is written”	–	Proof enough	Satan's deceptions overcome	(Matt. 4:10)
“It is I”	–	Presence enough	Storms of life survived	(Matt. 14:27)
“It is finished”	–	Provision enough	Salvation from sin's judgment	(John 19:30)
“It is done”	–	Power enough	Sorrow and death vanquished	(Rev. 21:4-6)