



Who is the Holy Spirit?
Adult Seminar Winter/Spring 2015

Class 10: The Holy Spirit and the Word of God

Scenario 1: a friend or neighbor asks you to explain your beliefs about the Bible. What is it? What makes it unique? Why do you call it God's Word?

A. It is made-up of _____ books, written by numerous authors, over thousands of years.

1) For God's people, there has always been an emphasis on the _____ Word.

Exodus 31:18

Deuteronomy 17:18

2 Timothy 4:13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

2) It is more _____ than most people recognize.

2 Peter 3:15-16 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. *There are some things in them that are hard to understand*, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

3) Yet, it can be taught to, and understood by _____.

Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children...

Matthew 19:14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

B. It was written by _____ and inspired by the _____.

2 Peter 1:19-21 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore...

It is inerrant and infallible.

It is powerful!

Isaiah 55:11

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



C. The 66 books form a _____ that is _____ .

Ephesians 2:20

Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Scenario 2: a friend asks you how you can believe that these 66 books are the right books. He goes on to say that it seems like these were just the books that the church (or those in power) picked in the 4th or 5th Century. What do you say?

A. The canon of Scripture was not a _____ development.

1) We know this from the evidence

The Muratorian Fragment (~180 AD)

Early church fathers who quoted the New Testament as Scripture:

Polycarp: "As it is written in these Scriptures, 'be angry and do not sin and do not let the sun go down on your anger.'"

2) We know this because of the expectations

Covenant and the expectation of written documents

3) The authors themselves believed they were writing Scripture.

Matthew 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob

1 John 4:6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

B. The Church did not _____ the canon; not to have a canon, to close the canon, or what books comprised the canon.

C. The Church _____ the canon because of the nature of Scripture.

WCF 1.5 *We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to a high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet, notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.*



The Word of God is _____ - _____ .

Notice the qualities of Scripture:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

The Scriptures bear the marks of the Spirit.

"God alone is a fit witness of himself in his word." - Calvin

"Christ will establish and build His church by causing the church to accept just this canon and, by means of the assistance and witness of the Holy Spirit, to recognize it as his." - Ridderbos

Scenario 3: a friend asks you to explain how the Bible, that's over 2000 years old, is relevant to someone living in the 21st Century?

The principle of _____.

1 John 2:20, John 16:14, etc.

1 Corinthians 2:10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

WCF 1.5 *"...our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts."*

So the Spirit enables us to _____ what is already there.

He then takes the Word and applies it to our lives uniquely.

Therefore we must never separate the Spirit from the Word!

Resources on the Word:

Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books* (Crossway, 2012).

Sinclair Ferguson, *From the Mouth of God* (Banner of Truth, 2014).