



BIBLE DOCTRINES - *One*



Doctrines of



Divine Inspiration of the Bible



INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

A Panoramic View of the Bible by C. I. Scofield

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"In the volume of the Book it is written of Me." Martin Luther asks, "What Book and What Person?" "There is only one Book," is his reply - "Scripture; and one Person - Jesus Christ."

The Bible is the Book of Books, and of it the Psalmist in his worship of the Lord says: *Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name* (Psalm 138:2). Before presenting the Biblical truths and external proofs of the Bible's inspiration, we present first:

A Panoramic View of the Bible by C. I. Scofield

The Bible, incomparably the most widely circulated of books, at once provokes and baffles study. Even the non-believer in its authority rightly feels that it is unintelligent to remain in almost total ignorance of the most famous and ancient of books. And yet most, even of sincere believers, soon retire from any serious effort to master the content of the sacred writings. The reason is not far to seek. It is found in the fact that no particular portion of Scripture is to be intelligently comprehended apart from some conception of its place in the whole. For the Bible story and message is like a picture wrought out in mosaics: each book, chapter, verse, and even word forms a necessary part, and has its own appointed place. It is, therefore, indispensable to any interesting and fruitful study of the Bible that a general knowledge of it be gained.

First. The Bible is one book. Seven great marks attest this unity.

1. From Genesis the Bible bears witness to one God. Wherever he speaks or acts he is consistent with himself, and with the total revelation concerning Him.
2. The Bible forms one continuous story--the story of humanity in relation to God.
3. The Bible hazards the most unlikely predictions concerning the future, and, when the centuries have brought round the appointed time, records their fulfilment.
4. The Bible is a progressive unfolding of truth. Nothing is told all at once, and once for all. The law is, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn." Without the possibility of collusion, often with centuries between, one writer of Scripture takes up an earlier revelation, adds to it, lays down the pen, and in due time another man moved by the Holy Spirit, and another, and another, add new details till the whole is complete.
5. From beginning to end the Bible testifies to one redemption.
6. From beginning to end the Bible has one great theme--the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. And, finally, these writers, some forty-four in number, writing through twenty centuries, have produced a perfect harmony of doctrine in progressive unfolding. This is, to every candid mind, the unanswerable proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible.

Second. The Bible is a book of books. Sixty-six books make up the one Book. Considered with reference to the unity of the one book the separate books may be regarded as chapters. But that is but one side of the truth, for each of the sixty-six books is complete in itself, and has its own theme and analysis. It is therefore of the utmost moment that the books be studied in the light of their distinctive themes.

Genesis, for instance, is the book of beginnings--the seed-plot of the whole Bible. Matthew is the book of the King, & etc.

Third. The books of the Bible fall into groups. Speaking broadly there are five great divisions in the Scriptures, and these may be conveniently fixed in the memory by five key-words, Christ being the one theme (Luke 24:25-27).

PREPARATION	MANIFESTATION	PROPAGATION
The OT	The Gospels	The Acts
EXPLANATION		CONSUMMATION
The Epistles		The Apocalypse

In other words, the Old Testament is the preparation for Christ; in the Gospels he is manifested to the world; in the Acts he is preached and his Gospel is propagated in the world; in the Epistles his Gospel is explained; and in the Revelation all the purposes of God in and through Christ are consummated. And these groups of books in turn fall into groups. This is especially true of the Old Testament, which is in four well defined groups. Over these may be written as memory aids:

REDEMPTION	ORGANIZATION	POETRY	SERMONS	
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Jonah
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Micah
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Ezekiel	Nahum
Numbers	1,2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Daniel	Habakkuk
Deuteronomy	1,2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Hosea	Zephaniah
	1,2 Chronicles	Lamentations	Joel	Haggai
	Ezra		Amos	Zechariah
	Nehemiah		Obadiah	Malachi
	Esther			

Again care should be taken not to overlook, in these general groupings, the distinctive messages of the several books composing them. Thus, while redemption is the general theme of the Pentateuch, telling as it does the story of the redemption of Israel out of bondage and into "a good land and large," each of the five books has its own distinctive part in the whole. Genesis is the book of beginnings, and explains the origin of Israel. Exodus tells the story of the deliverance of Israel; Leviticus of the worship of Israel as delivered people; Numbers the wanderings and failures of the delivered people, and Deuteronomy warns and instructs that people in view of their approaching entrance upon their inheritance.

The Poetical books record the spiritual experiences of the redeemed people in the varied scenes and events through which the providence of God led them. The prophets were inspired preachers, and the prophetic books consist of sermons with brief connecting and explanatory passages. Two prophetic books, Ezekiel and Daniel, have a different character and are apocalyptic, largely.

Fourth. The Bible tells the Human Story. Beginning, logically, with the creation of the earth and man, the story of the race sprung from the first human pair continues through the first eleven chapters of Genesis. With the twelfth chapter begins the history of Abraham and of the nation of which Abraham was the ancestor. It is that nation, Israel, with which the Bible narrative is thereafter chiefly concerned from the eleventh chapter of Genesis to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The Gentiles are mentioned, but only in connection with Israel. But it is made increasingly clear that Israel so fills the scene only because entrusted with the accomplishment of great worldwide purposes (Deuteronomy 7:7).

The appointed mission of Israel was,

1. To be a witness to the unity of God in the midst of idolatry (Deuteronomy 6:5; Isaiah 43:10).
2. To illustrate to the nations the greater blessedness of serving the one true God (Deuteronomy 33:26-29; 1 Chronicles 17:20,21; Psalms 102:15).
3. To receive and preserve the Divine revelation (Romans 3:1,2).
4. To produce the Messiah, earth's Saviour and Lord (Romans 9:4). The prophets foretell a glorious future for Israel under the reign of Christ.

The Biblical story of Israel, past, present, and future, falls into seven distinct periods:

1. From the call of Abram (Genesis 12) to the Exodus (Exodus 1-20).
2. From the Exodus to the death of Joshua (Exodus 21 to Joshua 24).
3. From the death of Joshua to the establishment of the Hebrew monarchy under Saul.
4. The period of the kings from Saul to the Captivities.
5. The period of the Captivities.
6. The restored commonwealth from the end of the Babylonian captivity of Judah, to the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D. 70.
7. The present dispersion.

The Gospels record the appearance in human history and within the Hebrew nation of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, and tell the wonderful story of his manifestation to Israel, his rejection by that people, his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

The Acts of the Apostles record the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of a new thing in human history, the Church. The division of the race now becomes threefold--the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church of God. Just as Israel is in the foreground from the call of Abram to the resurrection of Christ, so now the Church fills the scene from the second chapter of the Acts to the fourth chapter of the Revelation. The remaining chapters of that book complete the story of humanity and the final triumph of Christ.

Fifth. The Central Theme of the Bible is Christ. It is this manifestation of Jesus Christ, His Person as "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16), His sacrificial death, and His resurrection, which constitute the Gospel. Unto this all preceding Scripture leads, from this all following Scripture proceeds. The Gospel is preached in

the Acts and explained in the Epistles. Christ, Son of God, Son of man, Son of Abraham, Son of David, thus binds the many books into one Book. Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15) He is the ultimate destroyer of Satan and his works; Seed of Abraham He is the world blesser; Seed of David He is Israel's King. "Desire of all Nations." Exalted to the right hand of God He is "head over all to the Church, which is His body," while to Israel and the nations the promise of His return forms the one and only rational expectation that humanity will yet fulfil itself. Meanwhile the Church looks momentarily for the fulfilment of His special promise: "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John 14:1-3). To Him the Holy Spirit throughout this Gospel age bears testimony. The last book of all, the Consummation book, is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1).

I. THE DEFINITION AND METHOD OF INSPIRATION

In seeking the proper definition of what inspiration is, and how the Bible is inspired; we will allow the Bible to testify on its own behalf.

II Tim. 3:16. *All Scripture is given by inspiration (theopneustos) of God.*

Look carefully at that Greek word! *Theos* = "God; *Pneustos* = "Breathed". Thus, the Bible is the product of God's breath. He has breathed His very words on to the pages of the Bible.

II Pet. 1:21. *Not . . . by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved (pheromenoi) by the Holy Ghost. Pheromenoi means, "to be borne along as by a mighty wind". The same word is used in Acts 2:2 of the rushing mighty wind.*

I Cor. 2:13. *Not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.*

Jer. 36:4. *Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD.*

II Sam. 23:1,2. *Now these be the last words of David. . . the sweet psalmist of Israel said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his Word was in my tongue.*

Num. 23:16. *And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth.*

Job. 23:12. *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*

Psa. 68:11. *The Lord gave the word.*

Isa. 55:11. *So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void.*

Jer. 1:9. *Behold I have put my words in thy mouth.*

Lk. 11:28. *Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.*

Acts 1:16. *This Scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake.*

Acts 4:25. *Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said.*

From the above passages we see that God breathed His very Word through the forty human authors of Scripture in such a way, that the record they produced is the very Word of God. Thus, if God Himself had done the actual writing, the Bible would have been no more accurate and authoritative. May we ever magnify our God-Breathed Book, The Bible (Psa. 138:2).

II. THE IMPLICATIONS OF INSPIRATION

A. Inspiration Extends to the Actual Words - Verbal (Word for Word)

Inspiration.

God did not merely give the writers an idea or concept and allow them to write it in their own words. But, while often using their personalities and vocabulary, He breathed through them the very words that He Himself chose (I Cor. 2:13). The writers frequently did not understand what the Holy Spirit spoke through them (Dan. 8:27; 12:8; I Pet. 1:10,11). If they did not understand the words, how could they have chosen the words? Throughout the Scripture we see the constant emphasis upon the Words which God spoke.

Hosea 1:1. *The Word of the LORD that came unto Hosea.* NOT "The ideas or concepts that came unto Hosea".

A remarkable example of verbal inspiration can be seen in the account of Abraham's servant who went to seek a wife for Isaac. In Gen. 24:12-14 the servant is praying for the success of his mission. In 24:42-44 he repeats from memory the words of that prayer to Laban. But, he does so inexactly! Who could have written the actual prayer and Eliezer's imperfect remembrance of it but the Holy Spirit? This is a remarkable illustration of Word for Word inspiration; that inspiration extends to the very words.

Matt. 4:4. *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

I Cor. 2:13. *Words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth.*

Mt. 24:35. *My words shall not pass away.*

Jhn. 8:47. *He that is of God heareth God's Words.*

Rev. 22:19. *If any man shall take away from the words.*

Apostasy does not begin with the denial of Christ's deity, for the demons constantly acknowledge His deity in the four Gospels. It rather begins with Gen. 3:1, Yea, hath God said?" "Eve, were those really the words of God?"

B. The Bible is Equally and Fully Inspired in each of its Sixty-six Books -

Plenary (Full) Inspiration.

John 3:16 may mean more to you than the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11, but it is no more inspired. All Scripture is equally God-breathed.

II Tim. 3:16. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*

Psa. 119:160. *Thy Word is true from the beginning.*

Psa. 119:89. *Forever O LORD, thy Word is settled in heaven.*

Prov. 30:5. *Every word of God is pure.*

C. The Bible is Completely Without Error - Inerrant, Infallible Inspiration.

Psa. 12:6. *The Words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

Psa. 119:151. *All thy commandments are truth.*

Psa. 93:5. *Thy testimonies are very sure.*

Jhn. 17:17. *Thy word is truth.*

The Scriptures proceed from God and by this fact have the same perfections which characterize God Himself. Thus, both the Living and the Written Word have the same perfections. And, we therefore have a perfect written revelation.

In stating that the entire Bible is true and inspired of God, it must be recognized that the Bible with complete accuracy records the lies of Satan (Gen. 3:4), and the

faulty reasonings of men (Job, Ecclesiastes). Some of the statements of Job's friends are wrong (usually in their application to Job) and some of the philosophising of Ecclesiastes are an example of human wisdom and therefore, must be tested by the clear statements of truth elsewhere in Scripture. But, whenever the Bible states a fact as a fact, it is completely true. Thus, Scripture is inerrant in all matters doctrinal, spiritual, historical, geographic and scientific.

The best answer to the charge that the Bible has contradictions is, "Show me one!" There are a few accounts that at first glance seem to pose a problem. Luke 18:35 states that Christ met a blind man as he was approaching Jericho, but Mark 10:46 says that it was as he was leaving. Difficulties of this kind, however, yield to patient study, and will usually be solved when all the facts are known. For example, in Christ's day there were two cities of Jericho - one ancient, the other more modern. Christ would be going out of one Jericho while entering the other. Many of the supposed errors in the Bible have been cleared up by archaeological discoveries. After 1900 years, all the attempts of unbelief and rationalism have not been able to prove one error in the Bible.

III. THE EVIDENCE OF INSPIRATION

A. Evidence from Claims That the Bible Makes for Itself.

1. The Scriptures were Eternally Settled in Heaven before being Written on Earth.

Psa. 119:89. *Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

Psa. 119:152. *Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.*

As Christ, the Living Word is from everlasting (Micah 5:2) so the written Word was upon the heart of God from past eternity.

2. The Writers of the Old Testament Repeatedly Declare that the Word of God Had Come to Them.

Ex. 20:1. *And God spake all these words.*

Num. 33:2. *And Moses wrote. ... by the commandment of the LORD.*

Isa. 1:10. *Hear the Word of the LORD.*

Jer. 1:2. *To whom the Word of the LORD came.*

Ezek. 1:3. *The Word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel.*

Dan. 10:11. *Understand the Words that I speak unto thee.*

Hosea 1:1. *The Word of the LORD that came unto Hosea.*

Joel 1:1. *The Word of the LORD that came to Joel.*

Amos 1:3. *Thus saith the LORD.*

Oba. 1. *Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom.*

Jonah 1:1. *Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah.*

Mic. 1:1. *The word of the LORD that came to Micah.*

Nah. 1:2. *Thus saith the LORD.*

Hab. 1:1. *The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.*

Zeph. 1:1. *The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah.*

Hag. 1:1. *...came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah.*

Mai. 1:1. *The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.*

Phrases like these are found over 3,800 times in the Old Testament.

3. The Testimony of the New Testament Writers.

Gal. 1:11,12. *But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Eph. 3:3. *By revelation He made known unto me the mystery.*

I Thess. 2:13. *When ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth the Word of God.*

I Cor. 14:37. *The things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

4. The Testimony of Christ.

As God, the Lord Jesus Christ knew whether the Scriptures were inerrant and inspired or not. Therefore His word on this matter is final. He is *the Faithful and True Witness*. See Rev. 1:5; 19:11.

Matt. 4:4. *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

Matt. 5:18. *Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Jhn. 10:35. *The scripture cannot be broken.*

a. Concerning the Three Main Divisions of the Old Testament.

Luke 24:44. *All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

Luke 24:27. *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Luke 16:31. *If they hear not Moses and the prophets...*

b. Concerning the Mosaic Authorship and Inspiration of the Pentateuch.

Matt. 22:23-32, Christ declared that the things which *Moses said* (v 24), were *the scriptures* (v 29) and *were spoken unto you by God* (v 31).

Mark 7:8-13, Christ declared that what *Moses said* (v 10) was the *commandment of God* (v 9).

Mark 12:36. *Have ye not read in the book of Moses.*

John 5:46. *Moses. . . wrote of me.*

c. Concerning the Psalms and Prophetical Books.

Mark 12:36. *For David himself said by the Holy Ghost.*

Luke 4:17-21, speaking of Isaiah 61, Christ said, *This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

Mt. 24:15 . . . *spoken of by Daniel the prophet.*

d. Concerning the Miraculous Events of the Old Testament.

Creation. Mt. 19:4. *Have you not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.*

The Flood. Luke 17:27 . . . *until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

Destruction of Sodom. Luke 17:29. *It rained fire and brimstone.*

Lot's Wife. Luke 17:32. *Remember Lot's Wife.*

Jonah. Mt. 12:40. *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whales belly.*

Naaman. Luke 4:27 . . . *was cleansed.*

5. The Testimony of Quotation.

The forty men God inspired to write the Bible constantly quote from each other and in so doing claim to be quoting the very Word of God. The New Testament quotes from the Old Testament about 275 times and alludes to it some 550 times. To these we may add the many quotations made within each Testament. Upon consideration, it is remarkable that they practically never quote from literature outside of the Bible.

Here are a few examples of the testimony of inspiration from quotation;
Joshua quotes Moses. Josh. 8:35. *There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel.*

Ezra quotes Jeremiah. Ezra 1:1. *That the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled.*

Ezra quotes Moses. Ezra 3:2. *As it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.*

Daniel quotes Jeremiah. Dan. 9:2. *I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet.*

Daniel quotes Moses. Dan. 9:11. *The oath that is written in the law of Moses.*

Zechariah quotes the prophets before him. Zech 7:7,12. *Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets.*

Peter quotes David. Acts 1:16. *This scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake.*

Paul quotes Isaiah. Acts 28:25. *Well spake the Holy Ghost by Isaiah the prophet.*

Peter quotes Paul. II Pet. 3:15,16. *As our beloved brother Paul hath written unto you ...in all his epistles.*

Paul quotes Moses and Luke. I Tim. 5:18. *For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward.*

6. The Names which the Holy Spirit Gives to the Bible-The Word of God.

The Scriptures are called:

The Word of the Lord - 240 times.

The words of the Lord - 15 times.

The word of God - 41 times.

The words of God - 5 times.

The words of the Living God - 2 times.

God's word - 1 time.

The word of the Holy One of Israel - 1 time.

The word of the Lord of Hosts - 1 time.

The word of Christ - 1 time.

The good word of God - 1 time.

My word or words - 45 times.

His word or words - 35 times.

Thy word or words - 60 times.

Thus in some 448 places the Bible is called *the Word of God*. Rom. 10:1.7, *Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*

B. Evidence From Claims That Can Be Made for the Bible.

1. The Bible is a Miracle of Harmony.

There are sixty-six books in the Bible, written by forty different men of widely differing backgrounds, written in three different languages, written over a period of sixteen centuries, covering many different subjects; yet the Bible is One Unified Book.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible bears witness to: (1) One God - whenever He speaks or acts He is consistent with Himself and the total revelation concerning Him. (2) One story - God's dealing with man from Creation to the New Heavens and Earth. (3) One Salvation - faith in the Person and work of Christ. (4) One perfect Harmony of Doctrine and Truth - in its progressive unfolding.

Where else have four, let alone forty writers been in perfect agreement?

2. The Bible is a Miracle of Historical Accuracy.

The Bible contains countless historical statements about peoples, places and events. These can be cross-referenced with the known facts of history and archaeology. The spade and the pick have continually highlighted the historical accuracy of Scripture.

Again the challenge goes out; show us one error in the historical and geographic details of Scripture.

3. The Bible is a Miracle of Presage.

Though written thousands of years ago, it never makes statements, which are shown by the later advance of knowledge and science to be untrue. For example until comparatively recently, it was claimed that "bleeding" was a remedy for illness.

But, the Bible declares, (Lev. 17:11), *The life of the flesh is in the blood.*

4. The Bible is a Miracle of Preservation.

No book has been so attacked, so maligned, so banned, so burnt, so ridiculed, and what is worse, so ignored as the Bible. Through the centuries skeptics have searched its pages for a flaw. Yet no error has yet been proven.

Last eve I stood beside the smithy's door and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.
Looking in, I saw upon the floor Old hammers worn with beating years of time.
"How many anvils have you had?" said I, "To wear and batter out those hammers so?"
"Just one," replied the smith, with twinkling eye, The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

So me thought, the anvil of God's Word -For ages, skeptics blows have rained upon, And
though the sound of felling blows was heard, The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

The Bible has been preserved through what is known as the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, and the Received Text of the New Testament. Both of these form the basis of the King James Version. There are substantial differences between the Received Text, and the Greek text which underlie modern versions as the NIV. The translating methodology and philosophy is also different. For example, Old Testament prophecies of Christ are often not translated as clearly in the modern versions as in the KJV. See our booklet *Modern Bibles the Dark Secret*.

II Kings 10:10. *There shall fall unto the earth nothing of the Word of the LORD.*
Psa. 119:89. *For ever, O LORD, thy Word is settled in heaven.*

Matt. 5:18. *Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Matt. 24:35. *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

John 10:35. *The Scripture cannot be broken.*

I Pet. 1:23-25. . . .*incorruptible. . . liveth and abideth forever. . . the word of the Lord endureth forever.*

5. The Bible is a Miracle of Distribution.

Consider its amazing distribution throughout the world: Among the world's best-selling books, the Bible stands alone. There are 200 times as many Bibles in existence as there are of its nearest rival.

Psa. 68:11. *The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it.*

6. The Bible Saves the Soul and Changes Lives.

Psa. 19:8,9. *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

Rom. 1:16. *The power of God unto salvation.*

I Cor. 4:15. *I have begotten you through the gospel.*

Heb. 4:12. *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Jms. 1:18. *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth.*

Rom. 10:17. *Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*