

INSPIRED *by* GOD

THE UNSHAKABLE TRUTH
OF THE BIBLE



GARY HARGRAVE



MANY PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE. THAT IS GOOD, BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH. I DO NOT WANT YOU TO JUST BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE—I WANT YOU TO HAVE AN EXPERIENCE WITH THE BIBLE. BECAUSE THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING YOU DO.

Tragically, a passion for the Scriptures has been lost by modern-day Christianity. Your spiritual effectiveness is directly proportional to what the Scriptures mean to you.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

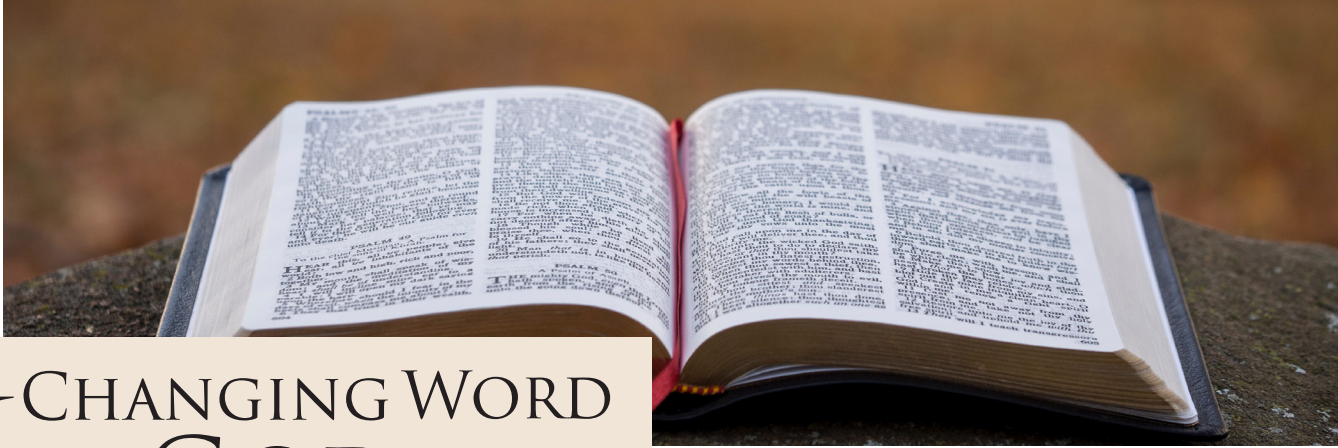
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (NASB)

The Lord gave us the Scriptures to guide us in our spiritual journey, that we might understand His plan, His power, and His promises.

A revelation of the Bible is a foundational experience for every Christian believer. Having a revelation that the Bible is the Word of God will change your entire life.

The Bible is important because it explains your experiences in God. When you were saved, you did not know everything about Christ; your salvation experience was like a personal introduction to the Lord. However, the Bible explains who Christ is and provides the understanding of your salvation.

The Bible provides a never-changing foundation upon which you can build your faith and experience all that God has planned for you. I trust this resource will give you greater insights into the Word of God and how to use His Word to unlock the supernatural power of God's divine provision.



THE LIFE-CHANGING WORD OF GOD

When you study man's encounters with God that are described in the Scriptures, often these experiences are so powerful and happen so quickly that it would have been impossible for them to understand the significance of what God was doing while they were in the midst of it.

The descending of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts is a great example of this—everyone there had a tremendous experience, but they had no idea what it meant. They did not know what was happening, or why it was happening, until Peter explained it using the Scriptures (see Acts 2:14-36).

When you have a revelation of the Scriptures, you have an open door of understanding to all that you will ever experience in God.

Most of us do not treasure the Bible as we should. Although the Bible is more readily available today than in previous generations, the pervasive feeling of this age is that the Bible is irrelevant and unnecessary. We have more Bibles than ever before—but less biblical understanding.

Even many Christians have a careless attitude about the Scriptures. It is easy to feel this way. However, our spiritual lives are weak and pathetic without the power of God's Word.

Christians of the New Testament Church were passionate about the Scriptures. They had an intensity of belief that what Paul spoke was the Word of God, so they were zealous to hear it (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 4:13-15). Throughout the history of the early Church, believers lived and died for the Scriptures. They were passionate because they had a true knowledge that the Scriptures were, in fact, the Word of God.

In modern history, one of the most prevalent criticisms of the Bible has been that we cannot determine whether or not the versions of the manuscripts that survive today have no errors when compared to the original versions. That criticism has been proven false by modern biblical scholarship, which has determined that the Bible we have today is a ninety-nine percent accurate reproduction of the original manuscripts!

Discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls have helped tremendously in establishing the validity of the text of the Scriptures. Our knowledge of the manuscripts of the Scriptures has greatly improved beyond what was known or understood just fifty years ago.

Even for the one percent of the biblical text that is still in question, the correct meaning is easily discerned. The Hebrew language is very contextual. In Hebrew, each sentence and paragraph must be taken as a whole to understand the meaning of each word. When you look at various copies of the ancient manuscripts, it is very simple to spot what is and is not a correct copy, because the context makes it clear. If, in the middle of this message about the Bible you found a sentence that read, "The trash can is full, so it is time to take out the garbage," you would see that it was obviously out of place and would conclude that it did not belong. The process of verifying the accuracy of the ancient manuscripts occurs in a similar fashion.

When scholars and linguists cannot reproduce the exact text with certainty, they often come to an agreement on the intended text, and the variant is cited in the Bible.

All modern English translations indicate these variants in the marginal notes with words such as, "Some ancient manuscripts read," or "Other ancient authorities said." These textual variants do not leave either the text or the context in confusion. The validity of the text should no longer be a source of doubt in our relationship to the Scriptures. The overwhelming majority of the Bible that we have today is precisely what was originally written by Moses, Paul, and all other authors of the Bible.





THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. What we mean when we say the Scriptures are inspired is that “men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:20-21). There are several theories of how the Holy Spirit inspired these men to write the Scriptures—but only one of these is valid.

Natural Inspiration

Some people would say that the Bible is inspired in the same sense as a literary masterpiece, such as *Moby Dick* or *War and Peace*. However, if you attribute this natural inspiration to the Bible, then the Scriptures possess no spiritual power. But the Word of God is indeed powerful (Hebrews 4:12), so obviously this could not have been the method of the inspiration of the Scriptures.

Mechanical Inspiration

Other people claim the Holy Spirit completely controlled authors such as Moses and Paul to write out the verses word for word. In the Scriptures, however, we never see the Holy Spirit, Yeshua (Jesus) Christ, or the Father control anyone in such a mechanical fashion. In fact, the only time we see a human being completely controlled by a spiritual entity is in instances of demonic possession—and whenever Yeshua encountered someone who was under the control of evil, He immediately set them free.

Verbal Inspiration

Still others claim that each and every word in the Bible was given by the Holy Spirit to the various authors. Rather than controlling their hands in a mechanical way, this theory claims the Holy Spirit told the authors exactly what words to write. However, the Gospels themselves reveal the inadequacy of this theory. Each of the Gospels differs based on the author’s focus and personality. Matthew wrote his Gospel to the Jewish people. Mark was a Roman and he wrote to the Gentiles. Because of Luke’s writing style, his Gospel stands alone as a superb piece of literature. John, more than any of the other Gospel writers, emphasized that Yeshua was the Son of God. When you read the Gospels individually, it is easy to see the distinct personality of each writer, which impacted their individual choice of words and writing styles.

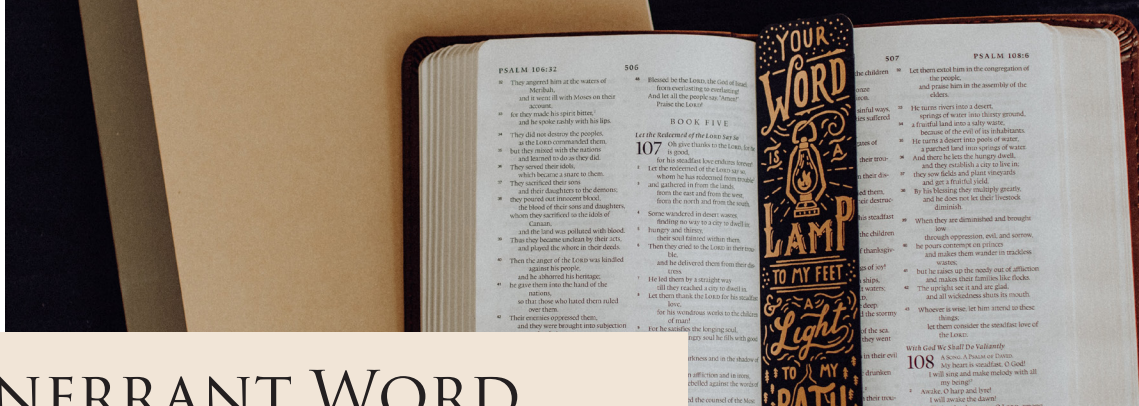
Partial Inspiration

Some who believe in partial inspiration claim that some parts of the Bible are from God, while other parts are merely human words. This kind of thinking is a slippery slope because then the reading of the Scriptures relies too much upon human decision. If at any time someone finds themselves in disagreement with what the Bible teaches, they can conveniently write off that part as uninspired.

Full Inspiration

We have already seen that the Bible says it was written by men moved by the Holy Spirit. The main problem with other theories of inspiration is that they do not properly reflect the relationship between God and the men through whom the Holy Spirit authored the Bible. The Holy Spirit did not control the hands of the authors, nor dictate it to them word for word. Instead, the Holy Spirit moved through them, and the inspiration was full and complete on every level. Every page of the Bible was written completely by the Holy Spirit and completely by men, in a synergistic relationship. The Scriptures are all God and yet none of them have been stripped of the author's humanity—in fact, they are filled with their humanity. The Bible is the perfect Word of God expressed through imperfect people. What a miracle!





THE INERRANT WORD OF GOD

When we say that the Bible is inerrant, we mean that the Bible does not contain any errors or conflicts in doctrine, history, or events. Different Scriptures may say the same thing in different ways, but the Bible never contradicts itself.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, authored by the Holy Spirit, then it cannot contain anything but the truth. God does not lie (Numbers 23:19). We cannot say that the Scriptures are accurate about doctrine, but inaccurate about the facts of history or geography. In fact, archaeological work on many surviving artifacts contemporary to the Bible has confirmed, time after time, that the Bible is historically and geographically accurate. We accept the Bible as completely true in all it affirms.

Why am I making such an issue of this? Because if you catch someone lying to you, you do not trust the next thing that comes out of their mouth. This is exactly what has happened in people's relationship to the Bible. Once someone thinks they cannot believe one thing in the Bible, then eventually they throw out the entire book. As critics have outlined their objections to various verses and chapters, many people's faith in the Bible has slowly eroded and they are not sure what to believe.

The validity of the text has been established by archaeology, linguistics, and scientific studies. It is even feasible that we will soon be reading a Bible that is a 100% complete reproduction of the original manuscripts—all it would take is the right archaeological discovery to complete that last one percent.

This means when we read the Bible, we can trust it. It is the inspired, inerrant Word of God. But that does not mean, however, that we will always understand or be able to properly interpret it. As an example, if you hand me a medical book, I can read it but not necessarily comprehend it all. And just because I do not understand what it says does not mean that the book is incorrect.



THE DEPENDABLE WORD OF GOD

We know that Yeshua, our Lord and example, believed and trusted the Scriptures. He said, *“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill”* (Matthew 5:17).

In His day, the Scriptures were often referred to as “the Law and the Prophets,” or “the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms.” The Bible that they had at that time is what we now call the Old Testament. They separated the Scriptures into three sections. The first part was known as the Law, which is the first five books of the Bible. Another section was the Prophets, which includes all books of the Old Testament that center around one of the prophets of God. The third section was the Writings—Psalms, Proverbs, Ruth, Kings, and Chronicles. So, Christ was saying, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Scriptures.”

*“These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses
and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

LUKE 24:44 (NASB)

Christ held a deep belief in the Scriptures. They were the Word of God to Him and He was determined to fulfill them. *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until it is accomplished”* (Matthew 5:18).

We can see in the Gospels that Christ valued each verse in the Bible as a Word from God. In His temptation in the wilderness, Christ did not throw the entire Bible at Satan because He recognized that every verse was a Word from God.

*And the tempter came and said to Him,
“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
But He answered and said, “It is written,
‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD
THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”*

MATTHEW 4:3-4 (NASB)

Christ answered Satan with a single verse of Scripture—in this case He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3. It is clear He felt that verse was a powerful Word of God, strong enough in itself to be used to resist the devil.

Satan offers Christ two more temptations, and Christ responds to both with a verse of Scripture to refute him—Deuteronomy 6:16 and Deuteronomy 6:13. There is authority in the whole Bible, but it took Christ only three verses to drive away the devil.

Christ also considered the individual words of the Scriptures as a Word from God. We see at least three occasions when Christ demolished the lies of the Pharisees and Sadducees by the proper interpretation of a single word of Scripture (see Matthew 22:23-33, Matthew 22:41-45, and John 10:31-36). He believed that every verse and every word of Scripture contained the power and anointing of God.

We too should have this same regard toward the Bible. The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). When the Word of God is within us, then the very Author of the Bible is within us!

Christ accepted the Scriptures as the voice of His Father to Him, and we need to understand that the Bible is the Father speaking to us, too. The Bible can be our source of understanding and authority, just as it was to Christ. We can follow the example of Christ, who studied the Word of God—not to find some interesting stories—but to experience the Scriptures and to find Himself.

Make this your prayer:

"Give me Your revelation of the Scriptures, Lord Yeshua. Let me have the same faith, the same knowledge of them, as You had. Open my heart that I might receive Your Word and understand it. You loved that Word—it was Your very life! It gave You Your direction, now let it give me mine. It was Your revelation of the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God. Speak to me, Holy Spirit, about Your Book. Make it real to me and make the Word of God come alive in me. Let it work the will of God in me. Touch my heart—and touch the hearts of the people around me with Your love for the Word. Amen."

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

