"I Need God's Word !"

Selected Scriptures
11/27/94

Introduction:

God has spoken!

The Bible is not just any book. It is God's Word! Eight Rational Proofs for Inspiration

1. Unity - The Bible was written by means of 40 different writers, in three languages (Hebrew and Aramaic - O.T.; Greek - N.T.), over a 1,500 year period, and yet the Scriptures have only one theme: namely, Jesus Christ and His salvation of mankind through His sacrificial and substitutionary death (See: Lk. 24:25-27; Jn. 5:39, 46; Acts 10:43, 18:28; I Cor. 15:3).

2. Prophecy - Fulfilled by Jesus at His first coming (Mt. 5:17; Lk. 24:27; Jn. 19:24)
   The odds of only 8 prophecies fulfilled by Christ would be 1 in 280,000 plus 27 zeros (See: Hefley - p.24,25; "What's so great about the Bible" David C. Cook Pub. Co.)
   EX: Ps. 22 - written about 1,000 B.C.
   Is. 53 - written about 750 B.C.

3. Honesty - Shows people as they really are. The Bible's heroes are not "sugar-coated!" Rather, the faults of even the greatest are brought out (Abraham, Moses, David, Peter).

   The Bible also describes sin as it is; heaven and hell as they are; and God as He is (example of the tension between election and free will - If man wrote the Bible, he would have relieved it).

4. Durability - The Bible has lasted through the ages, though attempts have been made to exterminate this Book as no other (EX: Jer. 36:1-2, 27-28).

   Voltaire, the French infidel, said: "Another century, [and] there will not be another Bible on earth." After his death, his printing press was used to print Bibles!

5. Power - To change (transform) lives.

6. Freshness - George Mueller said: *"I read through the Bible 100 times, and each time it is new to me."*

7. Scientific Accuracy -
   The earth is round (a circle) (Is.40:22)
   The earth hands on nothing (Job 26:7)
   The life of the flesh is in the blood (Gen 9:4; Lev. 17:11)
   Circumcision on the 8th. day (Lev.12:3)
   universal flood
   Uncountable multitude of stars (Gen.15:5; Jer.33:22)
   Plants and animals reproduce only after their kind (species) (Gen.1)

8. Historical Accuracy
   Proven by - Recent archaeological discoveries (cities discovered; customs proven etc.)
   Comparing the Bible with other historical writings contemporary with the Bible (Ex. Josephus)

God has providentially guarded (protected) His Word.

<u>Promises</u> of Preservation

a. Psalm 119:89 - "Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven" ("settled" = stands firm).

b. Psalm 119:152 - "Concerning Thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever."

c. Psalm 119:160 - "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."

d. Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever."

e. Matthew 5:18 - "For verily (truly) I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled" (cp. Lk. 16:17).

f. Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

g. I Peter 1:23-25 - "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

* Realize the practical benefits of daily feeding on God's Word!

You need to take in God's Word daily...

The Bible is a Book of <u>Power</u>. It has the power to totally transform your life!
"Transformation" - The Holy Spirit's use of the Bible to <u>change</u> (totally transform) a person's life from condemnation to salvation and from sin unto Godliness.

Note the following word pictures which depict the unique power of the Bible:

I. The Bible is a <u>Mirror</u>

...so that you can <u>see yourself</u> as <u>God sees you</u> (James 1:23-25)

It reflects the mind of God and the true nature and condition of man.

James 1:23-25 - *"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

II. The Bible is <u>water</u>

... so that you can have a <u>clean</u> <u>heart</u> (Eph. 5:26)

Ephesians 5:26- *"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"*

The Bible cleanses and quenches thirst.

III. The Bible is Nourishing Food

... so that you can grow into maturity (I Pet.2:2; Heb.5:14)

I Peter 2:2 - *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"*

a. It is milk that causes growth (I Pet. 2:2)

b. It is meat that gives strength (Heb. 5:14; I Cor. 3:1-3)

IV. The Bible is a Lamp and Light

... so that you can have guidance and direction into God's Will for your life (Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)

Psalm 119:105 - *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

It offers protection from danger and guidance into the right way.

V. The Bible is a Sword

...so that you can fight the enemy (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17)

Hebrews 4:12 - *"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Ephesians 6:17 - *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"*

a. The Holy Spirit's offensive and defensive weapon is the Bible (Eph. 6:17). God is speaking by no other means today.

b. According to Heb. 4:12, the Bible as a sword is:

(1) Living ("quick" KJV)

(2) Powerful
(3) Piercing - ("sharper...piercing")
(4) Penetrating ("dividing asunder")
(5) Convicting ("discerner [judge] of the thoughts and intents of the heart")

VI. The Bible is a Fire

...so that God can melt cold hearts and ignite revival (Jer. 20:9; Lk. 24:32).

Jeremiah 20:9 - *"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."*

It convicts, judges, and purifies.

VII. The Bible is a hammer

... so that God can break into Hardened hearts and build lives (Jer. 23:29)

Jeremiah 23:29 - *"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"*

It has ability to tear down (humble) and build up (edify).

VIII. The Bible is a Breath of God

... so that you can be revived for good works (II Tim.3:16-17)

II Timothy 3:16-17 - *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*

IX. The Bible is a <u>Seed</u>

... so that your life can produce <u>fruit</u> (Matthew 13:8,23)

As a seed, the Bible produces life, growth and fruit.

Matthew 13:8, 23 - *"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. . . But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

* You grow as your faith grows; and your faith only grows by hearing the Word.

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II. The Bible is <u>water</u>

... so that you can have a <u>clean</u> <u>heart</u> (Eph. 5:26)

III. The Bible is <u>Nourishing Food</u>

... so that you can <u>grow</u> into maturity (I Pet.2:2; Heb.5:14)

a. It is <u>milk</u> that causes growth (I Pet. 2:2)

b. It is <u>meat</u> that gives strength (Heb. 5:14; I Cor. 3:1-3)

IV. The Bible is a <u>Lamp and Light</u>

... so that you can have <u>guidance</u> and <u>direction</u> into God's Will for your life (Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)

V. The Bible is a <u>Sword</u>

...so that you can fight the <u>enemy</u> (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17)

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