

Word on the Street

Today we begin a series for our children and adults on the Foursquare Declaration of Faith. Each week we will examine a core belief and discover how it impacts our lives.

The Holy Scriptures: We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God: true, immutable, steadfast, and unchangeable.

- 1. The Word is inspired:** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

The Bible was written over a 1500 year span, by over 40 authors from a wide range of backgrounds, from three continents, in three languages, and in harmony about hundreds of controversial subjects. Challenge just ten teachers from the same school in Ridge Meadows to sit together in the same room and see if they can agree on topics like the origin of the earth, the existence of God, the resurrection of Jesus, and life after death – to start! The Bible authors wrote in their own unique style with the miraculous continuity of divine inspiration.
- 2. The Word is true:** *Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.* Psalm 119:142

Fulfilled prophecy provides the most compelling evidence for the Bible as the source of truth. There are at least 330 prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled in Jesus Christ, written hundreds of years before he was born. Most were beyond the ability of anyone to manipulate, such as his birth, crucifixion, and resurrection.
- 3. The Word is immutable (unalterable):** *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie.* Hebrews 6:17,18a

The Bible was written on perishable material and had to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the printing press was invented. And yet it has survived unaltered, without loss of style or accuracy. The Bible, compared with other ancient writings, has more manuscript proof of its accuracy than any ten pieces of classical literature combined.
- 4. The Word is steadfast (sure):** *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.* Matthew 5:17,18

It has withstood more attacks and attempts to burn it or ban it than any other book. The French infidel, Voltaire, apparently said the Bible would be swept from existence within 100 years of his life. Fifty years after his death some reports say his house became one of the largest Bible publishing houses in the world at that time.
- 5. The Word is unchangeable:** *All his laws are unchanging. They are fixed for ever and ever, they are done in faith and righteousness. He has sent salvation to his people; he has given his word for ever.* Ps. 111:7b-9a

If every Bible was destroyed it could be completely restored in all its essential parts from the quotations on the shelves of a public library. It is interesting how almost all other religious material, from world religions to cults, refers to the Scriptures. The Bible is undoubtedly the most quoted book of all time. It was the first major book printed in 1456 and has since become the only billion bestseller, selling at least 6 billion copies, translated in more than 2,000 languages!

What does the Bible mean to you and the way you walk out your life (Psalms 119:105).