

**WEEK 9: FOUR KINDS OF
AUTHORITY—
PART TWO: ONE
STRONG SOURCE**

**DAY 1: HOLY SCRIPTURE,
THE ONLY
AUTHORITY**

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-2,5; 3:14-17.

Four kinds of authority . . . but only one can be trusted! The apostle Paul knew which authority could be trusted. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 in your own Bible. Then read again here from the **New Life Version**.

14 But as for you, hold on to what you have learned and know to be true. Remember where you learned them.

15 You have known the Holy Writings since you were a child. They are able to give you wisdom that leads to being saved from the punishment of sin by putting your trust in Jesus Christ.

16 All the Holy Writings are God-given and are made alive by Him. Man is helped when he is taught God's Word. It shows what is wrong. It changes the way of a man's life. It shows him how to be right with God.

17 It gives the man who belongs to God everything he needs to work well for Him.

Focus on verse 15. How long had Timothy been studying the Scriptures?

Timothy had studied the Scriptures **since he was a child**, Timothy knew the Scriptures were able to give him what? ____

This **wisdom** leads to what? _____

What other writings in the world can lead you to **salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**? None!

Focus now on 2 Timothy 3:14. What did Paul tell Timothy to continue to do?

What is the difference in **learning** something and **firmly believing** something?

Firm belief happens when **the people who teach you also show you these things** in their own lives. Verse 14 says that Timothy knew who his teachers were. Do you know who Timothy's teachers were? Find three of them in 2 Timothy 1:1-2,5. Write their names and relationships to Timothy.

_____ , who was Timothy's _____ .

_____ , who was Timothy's _____ .

_____ , who was Timothy's _____ .

Lois was Timothy's **grandmother**, and **Eunice** was Timothy's **mother**. What relationship did you list for **Paul**? In verse 2 Paul called Timothy his son. He was using *son* as an example. It seems that Timothy's father was dead or some place else. He was not there when Timothy was growing up. Paul had become like Timothy's **spiritual father**. This is the reason Paul called him "my dearly beloved son." What do these verses tell you about your example and your influence on the children and young people around you, both in your family and in your church?

Focus now on 2 Timothy 3:16 (GNB). Who inspired the Scriptures?

The Bible is useful for four things because **God** inspired it. What are they?

The Scriptures are useful for "**teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.**" The Scripture will influence your life if you study. What will you become as you study the Scriptures?

Do you really want to become **fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed**? You know how if you do. You are doing it now if you are faithful in reading the Bible in your everyday Quiet Time, working in your SURVIVAL KIT, and memorizing your Bible verses. Do you still remember your first memory verse in the SURVIVAL KIT? This verse explains why it is so important to memorize God's Word. Write Psalm 119:11 here.

Second Timothy 3:16 is another verse that tells you the Bible is important. Start memorizing it today! Do you know what that verse means when it says the Scriptures are **inspired**? **Inspiration** means breathed in. You could say that **inspiration** means **God-breathed** when you read the sentence (2 Tim. 3:16).

Scripture is God's work. He **breathed** His truth into men's minds who wrote the books in the Bible. The Bible is truth. It is the only, perfect record of God's truth for people. Some other kinds of things may help. None of them is required for knowing God. It does matter whether it is a **book**, a **vision**, an **experience**, or a **tradition**. These things must be under the authority of the Bible.

Timothy had been studying Scripture since he was a child. You cannot start your own lifetime study sooner than **today**. Make a prayer promise. Will you give time to reading God's Holy Scripture for the rest of your life?

**WEEK 9: FOUR KINDS OF
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DAY 2: SCRIPTURE BEFORE
EXPERIENCE**

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-5.

You have read many Bible verses that **Paul** wrote. These verses are in Bible books called **Paul's Letters**. Paul's letters are followed by another part of the Bible called **General Letters**. Two books in this part were written by **Peter**.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-18, NLV. Peter talked in these verses about a wonderful event he had witnessed. That event was the **transfiguration** of Jesus Christ. Read these things Peter said about it.

_____ "We have seen His great power with our own eyes."

_____ "He received honor and shining greatness from God the Father."

_____ "A voice came to Him . . . saying, 'This is My much-loved Son. I am very happy with Him.' "

_____ "We heard this voice come from heaven."

_____ "We were with Christ on the holy mountain."

Now read Matthew 17:1-5. See when this happened. Write the number in the blank space above of the matching verse in Matthew. Some verses will be used more than one time. See that Peter's words match what really happened.

You should have written verses in this order: 2, 5, 5, 5, 1

It is clear Peter knew what he was talking about. He stood on the holy mountain. He saw Jesus receive honor from God the Father. He heard God's voice from heaven. Peter said in 2 Peter 1:16 that he knew that the power of the Lord Jesus Christ was **not** a

No, the event on the mountain was not a **man-made story** that some people tell. It really happened. Peter was there to see it happen!

Read carefully what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:19-21. Did you notice that he said his experience helped him know that what the early preachers said was true? Peter's experience was true. He was there. He was an eyewitness. He believed the Bible. What the early preachers said was **more true** than his own experience. Peter was saying, "The Bible can be trusted more than my own experience. It was written by men who were led by God's Holy Spirit."

Peter said in 2 Peter 1:20-21 two important **negative** things about the Bible. Write here in your own words what Peter said.

1. The Bible is **not** _____

2. The Bible is **not** _____

Peter said that the Bible is **not made up by man's interpretation of truth**. No part was made up because of what man wanted to write. The Bible was written because **God** planned it. **GOD SPOKE TO HOLY MEN TO WRITE WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TOLD THEM TO WRITE.**

Now write here four kinds of **religious authority**.

Write an X beside the **four kinds of authority** Peter was using when he told what happened with Jesus on the holy mountain. Write two Xs beside the kind of authority Peter said was **better**.

Your list should look like this:

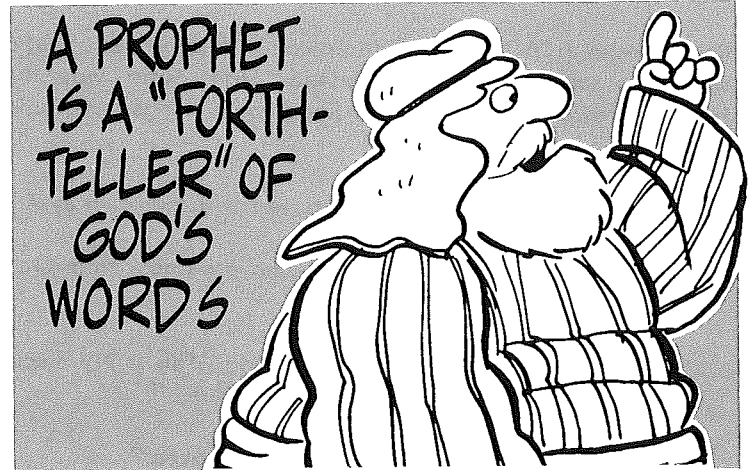
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| KNOWLEDGE | TRADITION |
| EXPERIENCES X | SCRIPTURE XX |

What rule should you have in your life about authority? What should be the most important kind of authority in your life? Pray about this during your Quiet Time. Then write your answer here.

Last week you memorized something Peter said about another kind of religious authority—**tradition**. Can you write 1 Peter 1:18-19 from memory?

Your second memory verse for this week is 2 Peter 1:20-21. Get an early start by beginning now!

Now is also a good time to learn what the word **prophecy** means. A man whose life, words, and writings were controlled by God's Spirit in the Old Testament was called a **prophet**. A prophet was a person who **spoke God's words**. Sometimes these words told about the future. Often they did not tell about the future. A prophet was a man who said whatever God told Him to say. A prophet did not say his own words. **GOD GAVE THE WORDS!**



**WEEK 9: FOUR KINDS OF
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DAY 3: AN AMAZING BOOK**

Read Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6; 27:13-14,38,57-60;
Isaiah 53:5,7,9; John 14:2-3; 19:1,4,34; 20:25.

It has hundreds of stories about things that had not yet happened when the men wrote about them. The Bible has prophecies about future kingdoms and kings, births and deaths, and stories about the Savior coming into the world in its pages.

For example, read Micah 5:2. Then read Matthew 2:1-6. Where did Micah say the Savior would be born? _____

Where was Jesus born? _____
Micah said in the year 740 B.C. the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. Mary, Jesus' mother, lived in Nazareth. Mary had to travel to Bethlehem because of the Roman Government's order. Jesus was born during the time Mary was in Bethlehem. Mary did not know these things would happen when she became pregnant. Read a part of Isaiah 53:5,7,9:

- 5 He was hurt for our wrongdoing.
- 5 He was crushed for our sins.
- 5 He was punished so we would have peace.
- 5 He was beaten so we would be healed.
- 7 Man made it hard for Him and caused Him to suffer.

- 7 Yet He did not open His mouth.
- 9 They gave Him a grave with the sinful.
- 9 But with the rich at His death.
- 9 For He had done no wrong.
- 9 And there was nothing false in his mouth.

Read now the New Testament verses listed below. Write beside each one the number and letter of the verse above that it matches. Notice that the prophet was exact in telling the facts about Jesus' trial, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| _____ John 19:34 | _____ Matthew 27:14 |
| _____ John 20:25 | _____ Matthew 27:38 |
| _____ John 19:1 | _____ Matthew 27:57-60 |
| _____ Matthew 27:13 | _____ John 19:4 |

Here is how you should have marked these verses from Isaiah:

5 John 19:34	7 Matthew 27:14
5 John 20:25	9 Matthew 27:38
5 John 19:1	9 Matthew 27:57-60
7 Matthew 27:13	9 John 19:4

It is so interesting that Isaiah 53 was written hundreds of years before Christ was born. People at that time did not know about using a cross to kill a person. But the words **hurt for our sins** fit the use of the nails and the sword that was used on the cross. Also, notice Isaiah 53:9. How could anyone know that Jesus would have a **“grave with the sinful”** and yet be buried **“with the rich at his death.”** Only God's Spirit could tell the prophet these things.

How much have you learned about the Bible? Test yourself by working the "Twelve Books of the Bible" test.

Our Lord Jesus Himself once made a prediction about the future. Read it in John 14:2-3. What two things did Jesus prophesy?

1. _____

2. _____

Jesus predicted: (1) **He would go to make a place for you in heaven.** (2) **He would come back to take you with Him to that place.** Do you have a reason to believe this will really happen in the future? Explain your answer here.

Many Bible prophecies have already happened. This is the reason you can know that the **other prophecies will also happen in the future.** The Bible is a book full of prophecies. Only God could make every one of them fully exact. God's Word is a really amazing book.

You should now be feeling more comfortable with the Bible. Your study in the SURVIVAL KIT has not taught you everything you need to know to finish this test. Don't feel bad if you do not know all the answers. If you know all the answers, it shows that you have been learning facts about your Bible from other places.

TWELVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Match these twelve book names with explanations given below. (You have studied from all except one of them in your SURVIVAL KIT.)

Genesis Isaiah John Philippians

Deuteronomy Micah Acts 1 Peter

Psalms Matthew Romans 2 Peter

Two letters from Paul:

Two books of prophecy:

Two letters from Peter:

Two biographies of Jesus:

The beginning of all things: **The beginnings of the church:**

A book of praise songs:

A book of rules:

(Left Column: Romans, Philippians, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Genesis, Psalms)

(Right Column: Isaiah, Micah, Matthew, John, Acts, Deuteronomy)

**WEEK 9: FOUR KINDS OF
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DAY 4: A FOREVER PLACE
FOR WISDOM AND
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Read Psalms 19:7-11; 37:29-31; 119:89-91,98-101,130,160;
Isaiah 40:6-8; Mark 13:31.

What does the **Bible** say about itself?

The Bible says it is a **forever place for wisdom and righteousness.**

Read these two explanations before opening your Bible. (1) You will find many different words that mean the Word of God, the Bible in the verses you will study today. Some of these words are **law, precepts, testimonies, statues, commandments, judgments.** (2) The words **Word of God** mean more than just the Bible. It means anything that God says about Himself. **God may say things about Himself** through the beauty of the world He has made, the voice of His prophet, or through the history of the world. The *Word of God* means the active show of God's personality. God's personality can be seen in the Scriptures. This is the record of God's activity.

Now read carefully all of the verses at the top of this page. These verses focus on the things the Bible says about itself. It is forever. It is a place to find wisdom. It is a place to find righteousness. Write the right verse beside each word that it explains.

FOREVER: _____

WISDOM: _____

RIGHTEOUSNESS: _____

Did your list look like this?

FOREVER: Psalms 19:9; 119:89-91,160; Isaiah 40:8; Mark 13:31

WISDOM: Psalms 19:7; 119:98-100,130

RIGHTEOUSNESS: Psalms 19:8-9,11; 37:29-31; 119:101

You have also been learning some other Bible verses that have something to say about the Bible. Can you write them from memory here?

_____ (2 Tim. 3:16).

(2 Pet. 1:20-21).

Another verse you have learned explains why many people misunderstand the Bible. The Bible was **inspired** by God's Spirit. It can be understood by people who have the Spirit of God **living in them**. Write a verse here that explains this point.

(1 Cor. 2:14).

Always remember to check yourself when you say or write a Bible verse from memory. Don't say the verses the wrong way. It will cause your service to Christ to become weak.

Now look again at Psalm 37:31. Where should God's Word be kept?

It is comforting to know that when **God's Word is in your heart**, your life will not stray from God's ways.

Here are eight verses you have learned in the past four weeks.

Draw a line to match each of them with the subject you studied the same week. Also try to say each verse from memory.

- THREE THINGS ABOUT SALVATION— Romans 5:10
- ITS BEGINNING AND COMPLETION 1 Corinthians 2:14
- THREE THINGS ABOUT SALVATION— 1 Corinthians 10:13
- A DAILY PROCESS Ephesians 2:8-10
- FOUR KINDS OF AUTHORITY— Philippians 1:6
- THREE KINDS NOT GOOD ENOUGH 2 Timothy 3:16
- FOUR KINDS OF AUTHORITY— 1 Peter 1:18-19
- ONE REAL KIND 2 Peter 1:20-21

Check your SURVIVAL KIT to be sure you matched each verse correctly. It is more important that you check your Bible to be sure you said each verse correctly.

The most important part of memorizing Bible verses is to **review, review, REVIEW!** Review every new verse **every day for six weeks**. This should help you not to overlearn it. You can remember it after that without a lot of pressure. Review the verse once a week after that for six weeks. Then review once a month for all of your life. This is not too much work if it gives you a forever place to get **wisdom and righteousness!**

**WEEK 9: FOUR KINDS OF
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**DAY 5: FOUR KINDS OF
AUTHORITY OR ONE?**

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Acts 18:24,28; Hebrews 5:12-14.

Four kinds of authority, but only **one** can be trusted. You know which one can be trusted.

Paul also knew which one could be trusted. Read what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. Paul said two times what authority he was using for his story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What kind of authority was it?

Can **you** use the same authority Paul used? Yes _____
No _____

Yes, you can use the **Scriptures** as your authority when you are talking about Christ's life with other people. But, this doesn't just happen to you because you become a Christian. Read in Acts 18:24,28 a short story of a Christian man named Apollos. How do you think Apollos became skilled in his knowledge of the Scriptures?

Do you think it is important for **you** to know the Scriptures the same as Apollos knew them? Is it important for you to fix your schedule and choices so that you can **study the Scriptures** the same as Apollos did? What might have to be changed in your life to give you the time for the lifetime habit of everyday Bible study?

Honestly, are you ready and willing to do the changing right now? Yes _____ No _____

Read Acts 18:28 again. What did Apollos do before he was able to show that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ?

Would **you** like to be able to share Christ? Yes _____
No _____ If yes, what can you do **to make yourself ready** as Apollos did?

Read Hebrews 5:12-14. Some of the people never started the habit of everyday Bible study. What happened to them? They should have become _____, but they still needed _____

It is awful when people should become **teachers** but still need **someone to teach them the basic things about God's Word**. These people are the opposite of Apollos. Write the names of one or two Christians you know who remind you of Apollos.

Write the one or two who remind you of the Christians in Hebrews 5:12-14.

Think for a minute! Do you think **your** name might be on **some other person's** lists? Do you remind people of Apollos, who knew a lot of the Bible? Or do you remind people of the Hebrew Christians who never grew up? Pray about that during your Quiet Time.

There are **four kinds of authority**, and only one can be trusted.

God gave you a mind to think and learn with. God did not mean for your mind and your knowing things to become the authority in deciding what is right and wrong. Your mind is for God to use to find His leading.

God gives all Christians **experiences**. You, too, will have experiences. These experiences are not supposed to be the things you follow. Experiences happen because you have a wonderful fellowship with God. Experiences might disappear in the future. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Your **fellowship** with Jesus must not let your **experiences** with Him become too important.

Some **tradition** (the same as **knowing things** and **experiences**) might begin in God's plan. However, you are

stuck in tradition when you do things from empty habit and do not understand why these things are valuable. Only Christ can help you become free. Knowing Christ personally is better than only knowing habits that mean nothing to you.

Finally, you come back to **Scripture**, the perfect kind of authority. Everything you need to know about faith and life as a Christian is found in the Bible. It makes sense that **no part of your life as a Christian should be more important than your personal Bible study with God's Word**.

Pastors preach the Scriptures. Teachers teach the Bible. They believe it is the perfect authority. You will benefit from their preaching and teaching. But there is a more important benefit for you to have. It is the benefit from a **personal** relationship. You have read many Bible verses in the past nine weeks. It hasn't taken a long time each day, has it? **Don't break the habit of everyday Bible study** when you have finished your SURVIVAL KIT. You will soon become like Apollos if you will continue this same time **daily** for the rest of your life.

You will find people in your church (the body of Christ) who have special skills to put deep things from the Bible into words. Become friends with these people. They will **bless your life**. But don't forget. **Study** the Word. **Memorize** the Word. **Meditate** about the Word. **All your future Christian growth** from the Bible will happen!