

Day 1

Read 2 Peter 1.19-21. What does Peter say about the source for scripture? What does he say about our response to scripture? This was the attitude of all the apostles and disciples of Jesus, because Jesus himself treated scripture as the Word of God. Read 2 Timothy 3.14-17. What does Paul say about the source for scripture? What does he say about our response to scripture? What does he say is the usefulness of scripture? If scripture is inspired by God, what does that imply about scripture's accuracy?

Pray God will help you believe in his inspiration of scripture, that scripture is his revelation, so we can know who he is, what he offers us, and what he desires from us. Pray that you can believe in the inerrancy of the scriptures.

Day 2

Read 1 Timothy 5.18. Paul says he is quoting scripture, but the latter of the quotations comes from Luke 10.7. What does that say about Paul's view of the gospel of Luke? Read 2 Peter 3.15-16. Peter says people corrupt Paul's writings, as they do *the rest of the scriptures*: what does that say about Peter's view of Paul's letters? If the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, what does that imply about whether the Bible is sufficient for its declared purposes of knowing God, being saved by Christ, and being led by the Spirit to reflect the image of God?

Pray you can accept God's inspiration of both Israel's Old Testament and the New Testament written by the followers of Christ. Pray also that you can believe that what God has revealed in the Bible is sufficient for really knowing God, receiving salvation from God, and walking with God in daily life.

Day 3

Read Acts 1.16. Who was the source of predictive prophecy? How did that source convey the prophecy to mankind? Read Romans 1.1-2. Who was the source of biblical promises? How did that source convey the promises to mankind? Read 2 Timothy 3.16 and 2 Peter 1.20-21. Did God inspire the authors or the things they wrote? If God inspired scripture, what does that say about its authority in our lives and ministries?

Pray the inspiration and authority of scripture will become real to you, and that you would respond in faith.

Day 4

Read 2 Peter 3.15-16 and 1 Corinthians 2.13. Did God inspire the thoughts of the authors or the specific words? If God inspired scripture, then why do we see the personalities of the human authors come through in the text? Can you imagine a process by which God guides us to his desired result, but works through the personality he gave us to get us to that desired result? If scripture is inspired, inerrant, sufficient, and authoritative, how dependent should we be on it?

Pray you can understand the complexities of inspiration and accept even what does not make sense to our minds. Pray that you can learn to depend on scripture for your perspectives and life philosophy, as well as spiritual growth.

Day 5

Read Luke 1.1-3. Most translations say Luke "investigated"; some say "followed"; we can see that even this would mean he was learning about the events. We believe Luke came to faith during one of Paul's missionary trips [the shift from "they" to "we" in his narrative in Acts 16.8-10], and Luke was not a Jew, so it is unlikely that he was following Jesus around. We conclude that Luke 1.3 means he learned all he could about Jesus and the start of the church, so he could write the gospel of Luke and the beginning of Acts accurately. We know others, like Matthew and John, could relate what they had experienced with Jesus; others, like Paul, acknowledged hearing directly from God; others were inspired or "carried along" by the Holy Spirit. What do you think of God using so many methods to inspire scripture? If we are dependent on scripture because it is inspired, inerrant, sufficient, and authoritative, then how much time should you devote to studying it? Should you study daily or just weekly? Should you give it just five minutes or more time?

Pray that you would be disciplined and devoted enough to learn often from God through his revelation.