

## IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE, AND CAN I KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?

Scripture used: [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)

### OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon provided the last sermon in the Explore God series, “*Is the Bible reliable, and can I know God personally?*” The first two questions are framed by the answer to a third question: can God know you personally? God has gone to enormous sacrifices throughout the centuries just so we can know Him and Him us. The Bible is God’s revelation to us. The second revelation is seen in His Son Jesus. These revelations are evidence that God is aching to have a personal relationship with us.

### KEY POINTS

1. **Is the Bible reliable? For what purpose?** The Bible is not a history, science or math book. It is a representation of Theo-ology (*Theo*=God, *-ology* =knowledge). The primary purpose is to reveal to us who God is and to make Him accessible to us. While we learn about God’s character, the Bible also uniquely informs about human nature across cultures and time.
2. **Five truths about the Bible**
  - a. **Scripture is God-breathed.** [2 Timothy 3:15a \(MSG\)](#) When God breathes, the supernatural happens. The word of the Lord is brought to life through the Holy Spirit inspiring the writers of the Bible. There are many examples of this in the Bible including [Genesis 15:1 \(ESV\)](#), [Jeremiah 1:4-5 \(NIV\)](#), [John 1:1-3 \(NIV\)](#), and [John 1:14 \(MSG\)](#). John makes the connection between Scripture and God by pointing to Jesus as “the Word”.
  - b. **Every part of Scripture is useful for the purposes of God.** [2 Timothy 3:16 \(MSG\)](#) The Bible includes many teachable moments. For example, the story of David and Bathsheba ([2 Samuel: 11](#)), and the story of Tamar ([Genesis 38](#)). All three of these people were noted in Jesus genealogy ([Matthew 1](#)) - proof that God can take the abuser and the abused and make them His children.
  - c. **Scripture reveals what’s true and trustworthy.** [2 Timothy 3:16a \(NLT\)](#) The Biblical accounts found in the Gospels were written within the lifetimes of people who were present during Jesus’ ministry. In other words, the Gospel contains eyewitness accounts.
  - d. **Scripture reveals what is wrong in our lives and teaches us to do what is right.** When we are confused or offended by Scripture, consider the following:
    1. The specific context of the verse(s)
    2. The larger scope of the Scripture
    3. The correction and stretching of God. Do we want Jesus to be Savior, but not Lord?
  - e. **Scripture prepares us for the work of God and equips us with the Hope of God.** [2 Timothy 3:17 \(MSG\)](#) makes this clear.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Reflect on the times in your past where you believed God was stepping towards you to reveal Himself to you. What were these times like? Ask God to help you to recall these moments, and thank Him for His consistent effort to draw you near to Him.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Do you allow God to have a personal relationship with you? What might be obstacles to having this relationship with God? What helps you to build this relationship? What does that mean to you that Jesus is not only Savior, but He is Lord? How do you personally find the Bible to be trustworthy?
- 3) **DO** - Scripture prepares us to do God’s work. Will you participate in [Be Rich service weekend](#) November 11-12, or find another way to do God’s work in your community?