

# Discipleship: A Sure Word

2 Peter 1:16-21

Discipleship means following Jesus, and you can't follow Him without knowing where He wants you to go. We need a sure word from God, and if we don't receive the one He gave us, we'll find a replacement. The Bible is God's word to us, the way He speaks today. It's not that we simply read and comprehend it; it's a living and active word that reads and understands us (Heb. 4:12). Our job is to recognize the Bible is God's word, and then read it regularly.

## ***The Word of God***

Peter knows the difference between a myth and something that actually happened. Jesus' divine power and resurrection are the latter according to his eyewitness testimony (v16). He was there at the Transfiguration and heard God's voice (vv17-18). As helpful as that was, there is something *more sure*: the prophetic word that we ought to pay attention to as lamp shining in a dark place (v19). There are four central attributes of this light.

**Authority** – The first thing skeptics will say about the Bible is that it didn't fall out of the sky. Of course, the Bible gladly teaches this. Peter says, “no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (vv20-21). Scripture's authority flows directly from its inspiration; all of it is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16). When God inspires a prophet, he gets it right all the time (Dt. 18:21-22). So we receive the entire Bible as our only ultimate authority, *sola Scriptura*. It's not that we have an authority and others don't. Everyone does, but only Scripture is God's word (Acts 17:11). The Scriptures are spoken of as if they were God, and God is spoken of as if He were the Scriptures (Rom. 9:17, Gal. 3:8; Matt. 19:4-5, Heb. 3:7).

**Clarity** – Christians disagree on many things, but more remarkably, they agree on all the most important things, nicely summed up in the Apostles' Creed. We agree because the Bible isn't hard to understand (Dt. 30:11-14). The Westminster Confession says not all things are equally clear in Scripture, but the things necessary to salvation are so clearly propounded that even the uneducated can understand them (WCF 1.7; cf. 2 Pet. 3:15-16).

**Sufficiency** – Paul tells Timothy that Scripture is good for everything, “that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). It's easy to say we believe in the Bible, but where do we go when in need? Cornelius Van Til said that the Bible is authoritative in everything it addresses, and it addresses everything.

**Necessity** – We need Scripture. When Satan tempted Jesus to relieve His hunger by turning stones into bread, He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Apart from Scripture, we would know nothing of sacred history or the gospel. The Bible is for our conversion, but also for our *life*. God feeds us with it. The Bible is food, every word of it. Think of this next time your stomach rumbles.

## ***Taking in the Word of God***

If we believe these things about the Bible, we're going to feed on it (1 Pet. 2:2). Read naturally, regularly, and with reasonable expectations, and before long you'll be thriving. Reading at a normal pace, you can get through a typical chapter in a few minutes. If you do that every day, you'll read the Bible (1189 chapters) in three years. The most important issue isn't quantity, but being frequently taught and encouraged by the Lord: “Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them” (Ps. 119:129).

## NOTES FOR LITTLE SAINTS

### Today's Passage: 2 Peter 1:16-21

*16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

1. Is the story about Jesus just another made up myth (v16)? Why is this important?
2. The apostle Peter says we have a more sure word. What is that word like in verse 19? Who guided the men who wrote the Bible (verse 21)?
3. Do you have a good Bible you read at regularly at a good time? If not, when would be a good time to read it regularly?
4. Draw a picture of Peter, Moses and Elijah with Jesus on the mountain at the Transfiguration, and then a later scene where Peter is writing the story down.

### Memory Verse to Recite Next Week:

*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. -2 Peter 1:21*