

8. **Unity**—although the Bible is a collection of 66 different books by over 40 authors written over 1,500 years, it has continuity and unity in theme and purpose
“the Scriptures...bear witness about Me” (John 5:39)
9. **Divinity**—the Bible is a divine book; it is supernatural since it was authored by God and records the events and purpose of God *“All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16)*
10. **Immensity**—the Bible is humanly inexhaustible in terms of its implications and applications, being that its origin is in the infinite mind of God
“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!” (Romans 11:33)
11. **Canonicity**—God determined how many books He wanted in the Bible and insured the process of identifying and preserving those books *“Every word of God is true...do not add to His words” (Proverbs 30:5-6)*
12. **Accessibility**—God and His will are made available to His creation; He is not deistic; His Word is intended for all to hear, learn and obey
“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15)
13. **Eternality**—The Bible is a written manifestation of the will of God and has existed for all eternity
“Your Word, O LORD, is eternal” (Psalm 119:89)
14. **Historicity**—The Bible is a historical book; it records true historical events, people and places and is not mythology
“In the days of Herod, king of Judea...” (Luke 1:5)
“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus...” (Luke 2:1)
“The name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.” (Genesis 2:14)
15. **Superiority**—the Bible is superior to all other books; no other book comes close to its production, distribution and influence on the world and history

“The Bible: God’s Living Word”

Selected Scriptures

Dr. Cliff McManis

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1. Inspiration—the Bible is inspired

- a) Inspired means ‘breathed’;
*“All Scripture is **inspired by God**” (2 Tim 3:16);*
In Greek ‘inspired by God’ is one word = *theopneustos* = θεόπνευστος = God-breathed = breathed out by God = from God’s mouth = God is the source of its content
- b) *“But He [Jesus] answered and said, ‘It is written [in Deut. 8:3], ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God’ ” (Matthew 4:4)*
- c) *“no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy [of Scripture] was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved/carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:20-21)*
- d) We believe in...
verbal inspiration = the words and letters are inspired
plenary inspiration = the whole and parts are inspired
equal inspiration = it is all equally inspired

2. Inerrancy—the Bible is inerrant

- a) The Bible has no errors
“Every word of God is flawless” (Proverbs 30:5; NIV)
“All Your words are true” (Psalm 119:160)
“it is impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18)
“Let God be true and every man a liar” (Romans 3:4)
- b) The Bible has mystery, antinomies and does not give exhaustive truth; but it gives sufficient truth

3. Authority—the Bible is authoritative

- a) What Scripture says, God says
- b) Jesus used Scripture as the ultimate authority
“the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35)
“He said, ‘It is written...’ ” (Matthew 4)
“do not go beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6)
- c) Scripture is not just an authority or one of many authorities, but it is the ultimate authority—‘the final rule for faith and practice’
- d) The Bible has authority over the church, church leaders, all Christians, government and society

4. Clarity—the Bible is perspicuous

- a) The Bible is comprehensible, not just for scholars and the elite; it is written in the vernacular or common language of the people
- b) “the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it” (Wayne Grudem)
- c) A modern denial of ‘Clarity’:
*“‘We want to embrace mystery, rather than conquer it.’ ‘I grew up thinking that we’ve figured out the Bible,’ ... ‘that we knew what it means. **Now I have no idea what most of it means’.**”*
(Christianity Today reporting on Rob and Kristen Bell, founders of Mars Hill, an emerging church in Michigan)
- d) *“these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)*
- e) *“The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130)*
- f) *“Have you never read in the Scriptures...?” (Matthew 21:42)*
- g) *“He who has an ear let him hear” (Revelation 2:7)*

5. Sufficiency—the Bible is sufficient

- a) The Bible contains all that we need to know, not all there is to know
 - b) *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2)*
 - c) The complete repository of faith/revelation/doctrine has been once-for-all delivered to the Church (Jude 3)
 - d) *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)*
 - e) *“When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13)*
 - f) *“All Scripture is...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness in order that the child of God may be competent [perfect], [thoroughly] equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
 - g) The Bible has an authoritative and adequate comment about every area of life, every discipline, every event, every concept, theory, or thought
6. **Infallibility**—the Bible is veracious, reliable, has fidelity, is accurate and not misleading; it is indestructible and not failing
“Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35)
“Thy Word is truth” (John 17:17)
“Not a dot will pass from the Law until all is accomplished”
(Matthew 5:18)
“Jesus said...‘Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away’ ” (Mark 13:31)
7. **Efficacy**—Scripture always accomplishes its purpose; it is dynamic and alive; it penetrates the mind, heart and conscience of a person; it changes and transforms people
“The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)