



**SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022**

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 / John 14:25-26

**TITLE: Is the Bible Actually God’s Word?**

Can you trust the Bible? What is the Bible? How should we use the Bible? These are valid questions that everyone should ask.

Here we are in week 5 of our series, “Pursuing Spiritual Fitness”. We all should pursue spiritual fitness, because when we do, it results in spiritual health. But like any fitness program, it means being intentional about your diet and your exercise. So, over the past few weeks, we’ve been eating a steady diet of the essential doctrine of Christianity. And this week, we’re looking at the Bible.

According to Gallup, 47% of Americans believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Only 24% of Americans believe the Bible is the literal Word of God. These statistics are following a 40-year trend. Should we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God?

Well, consider passages like this:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) says,

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

According to 2 Timothy 3, all of the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation - was inspired or breathed out by God. It’s true that human hands captured God’s thoughts, and captured what He wanted to be communicated, but did so in the uniqueness of each author in various genres.

But should we believe that just because it says so? Well, yes and no. We should believe it, if it’s in fact true. But there’s another reason why we affirm its claim: Jesus affirmed this truth.

Jesus spoke of the whole Old Testament, its central divisions, its individual books, its events, and even its letters, and parts of letters, as having divine authority. If you read through the Gospel, you find that Jesus affirmed the Old Testament’s authority, reliability, finality, sufficiency, historicity, inerrancy, and infallibility.

Jesus even promised the same of the New Testament writings, saying,

“I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you” (John 14:25-26).

What was inspired by the Spirit was recorded.

So what should we do with this information? What if the Bible is the literal Word of God? What should we do with it? Well, Paul gave us the answer in 2 Timothy 3, saying, it,

“Is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

So, here's my challenge for you today, when you read the Bible, know it is God's Word, and therefore worthy of our trust and obedience. It's not just a bunch of fanciful stories. It's theology and practical for our lives today.

So read, study, embrace and live out God's Word. When we do this, Friend, we will win the day.