



## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### EFCA STATEMENT OF FAITH ON THE BIBLE

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### SOME HELPFUL TERMS (Revised from Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem)

- ✘ **Canon**-the list of all the books that belong in the Bible.
- ✘ **Translation**-a text that is not in the original language with which it was penned. The original writings of the Bible were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- ✘ **Inspiration**- the words of scripture are spoken by God, and therefore inerrant and infallible (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- ✘ **Inerrancy**- Scripture in the original manuscripts do not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. (Psalm 119:89; John 17:17)
- ✘ **Infallibility**- Scripture is not able to lead us astray in matters of faith & practice (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- ✘ **Illumination**- the work of the Spirit in our lives where He enable us to understand and apply the Scripture to our lives (John 16:13-15; 1 Cor 2:9-16; 1 John 2:27)

### THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

#### ✘ Defining Inspiration

*Peter Enns in The Bible: God's Word (p. 61)*

*There are several important elements that belong in a proper definition of inspiration: (1) the divine element—God the Holy Spirit superintended the writers, ensuring the accuracy of the writing; (2) the human element—human authors wrote according to their individual styles and personalities; (3) the result of the divine-human authorship is the recording of God's truth without error; (4) inspiration extends to the selection of words by the writers; (5) inspiration relates to the original manuscripts.*

## ✘ 4 Essential Characteristics of Inspiration

- *Sufficiency* – the Bible shows us everything we need for life and salvation
- *Clarity* – the Bible can be understood by all who believe its truth
- *Authority* – the Bible is the ultimate authority for every believer
- *Necessity* – the Bible is necessary for us to know God & our Savior, Jesus Christ

## ✘ Evidences for the Inspiration of Scripture (From *God to Us* by Norman Geisler & William Nix, p. 53-61)

### Internal Evidences

- **Self-Vindicating Authority** (Job 38; Mark 1:22)  
*“The Bible speaks, like a lion’s roar, with its own convincing authority.”*
- **Testimony of the Holy Spirit** (John 14:26. 16:13)  
*“The Word of God is confirmed to the children of God by the Spirit of God”*
- **Transforming Ability of the Bible** (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 2:2)  
*“The ability of the Bible to convert the unbeliever and to build up the believer in the faith.”*
- **Unity of the Bible**  
*“Comprised as it is of some sixty-six books, written over a period of fifteen hundred years by nearly forty authors in several languages containing hundreds of topics, it is more that accidental that the Bible possesses an amazing unity of theme-Jesus Christ.”*

### External Evidences

- **Historicity of the Bible**  
*“The Bible is accurate on every historical event it deals with.”*
- **Evidence from Prophecy**  
*“No unconditional prophecy of the Bible about events to the present day has gone unfulfilled.”*
- **Influence of the Bible**  
*“No book has been more widely disseminated and has more broadly influenced the course of world events than has the Bible.”*
- **Indestructibility of the Bible**
- **Integrity of the Authors**

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN OUR BOOKSTORE

- ✘ **Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Bible Doctrine** by Wayne Grudem
- ✘ **Living by the Book** by Howard Hendricks (how to study the Bible)
- ✘ **How we Got the Bible** by Bill Arnold
- ✘ **Taking God at His Word** by Kevin DeYoung