

# THEOLOGY OF SCRIPTURE:

## *Why It Matters for Life and Ministry*

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### INTRODUCTION

*Goal of this training:* to raise your everyday attention to, love for, and use of Scripture to a level of consciousness for the purpose of concentrated study.

### CASE STUDY

A Christian friend comes over to your home and engages you in a serious conversation. He has been beset of late by various physical problems: insomnia, digestive irregularities, difficulty in concentration, lethargy, and the like. In his own words, “My body is breaking down in front of my own eyes!”

When you probe a bit, you discover that he has been living the life of a couch potato: He is not exercising, not eating nutritional meals, and not getting proper rest. You comment that if he continues down this path, he will soon become no good for anyone: himself, his family, his friends, those to whom he ministers, even God. You encourage him to get off the couch and begin to correct his physical problems.

He looks at you with disappointment and sighs, “But I came to you as a Christian friend expecting that you would have something from the Word of God to share with me. Instead, all you have is some pragmatic advice about eating right and exercising and getting enough rest!” He concludes: “I wish you could give me some biblical insights about how we are to live in this body.”

The next time he comes over, what things could you share with your friend from Scripture about life in the human body? How does this scenario help you understand the nature of Scripture? (That is, why would you share biblical wisdom with this friend?)

## **The attributes of Scripture (and our focus characteristics)**

-Inspiration, truthfulness (inerrancy), sufficiency, necessity, clarity, authority and power.

## **The inspiration and affirmation of Scripture**

*“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” -2 Timothy 3:14–17*

“Sacred writings” —what are they able to do? “All Scripture,” “breathed out by God” —for what is Scripture useful?

*“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, knowing this first of all, that 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. “The prophetic word” / “prophecy of Scripture” / “prophecy” —The command, the metaphor, and the time frame “No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation” “No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man” Contrast (“but”): “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” -2 Peter 1:19–21*

## **The definition of the inspiration of Scripture**

Inspiration is the special work of the Holy Spirit in which he superintended the human authors of Scripture in such a manner that, employing their different theological perspectives, writings styles, grammatical abilities, and personalities, he ensured that what they wrote was precisely what God wanted them to write: the Word of God, fully truthful, without error in the original manuscripts, and with full divine authority. Components of this definition:

- Divine authorship of all Scripture
- Truly human authorship of all Scripture

- A divine-human confluence/cooperation in the writing of Scripture

Confluence (diagram)

river 1 -->                      CONFLUENCE ==>                      river 2 -->

Definition: “the flowing together of two streams ... the body of water so formed” • rejection of mechanical dictation  
Mechanical dictation: There was no significant and willful participation on the part of the biblical authors in the writing of Scripture; rather, God overrode their personalities and personal efforts to cause them to write what they wrote. Such a view, which is actually held by very few people today (including very conservative Christians), cannot adequately account for the different theological perspectives, writings styles, genre, grammatical abilities, and personalities that are in evidence in Scripture.

## THE MODES OF INSPIRATION

### Historical Research

*“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.” -Luke 1:1–4*

### Observation of Life

*“So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. Then I said in my heart, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?” And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the*

*fool! So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.” -Ecclesiastes 2:12–17*

### **Miraculous Revelation**

*“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” -Revelation 19:11–16*

### **Spirit-Assisted Memory**

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” -John 14:26*

### **Sound Judgment Prompted by the Spirit**

*“Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is... A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.” -1 Corinthians 7:25–26, 39–40*

### **Dictation**

*“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lamp stands’” -Revelation 2–3*

The issue of what is inspired: we believe in the **verbal, plenary** inspiration of Scripture.

## **Corollaries of inspiration**

- The truthfulness of Scripture
- The inerrancy of Scripture
- The authority of Scripture

## **Application of the inspiration of Scripture**

- Scripture, as the only God-breathed book, is unique as to its origin. How does its inspiration prompt us you think, feel, and act?
- Scripture is coming under fierce attack today because of the many alleged errors found in it. How can the inspiration of Scripture be one aspect in our response to detractors from Scripture who attack its truthfulness?
- Does the fact of its inspiration prompt you to approach your reading and studying of the Bible in a different way from, say, your reading of one of the New York Times best sellers?

# **THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE**

The definition of the sufficiency of Scripture: *“The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.”* -Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 127

## **Components of this definition**

At each stage of God’s work of saving people, Scripture contained the appropriate amount and type of revelation.

Example: For the people of Israel standing on the verge of entering into the promised land, the Pentateuch—the five books of Moses—was God’s sufficient Scripture, containing everything those people needed for salvation, faithfulness, and obedience.

Scripture as we have it—the Bible consisting of both the Old and New Testaments—contains everything people today need for salvation, faithfulness, and obedience

## **The Affirmation of Scripture**

2 Timothy 3:15–17

*“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.” -Psalm 19:7–11*

*“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” -1 Peter 2:1–3*

*“And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” -Matthew 4:3–4*

## **Passages prohibiting additions to or subtractions from Scripture**

*“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.” -Deuteronomy 4:1–2:*

*“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.” -Proverbs 30:5–6*

*“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.” -Revelation 22:18–19*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF AFFIRMING THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

## Example: the Catholic Church

Roman Catholicism denies the sufficiency of Scripture, insisting upon another authority—tradition—that supplements Scripture; thus, everything a person needs to know to be saved and everything a believer needs to live a life that is pleasing to God is not contained in Scripture alone.

For example, people are told to expect a time of punishment after their death so that their soul, still tainted by sin, can be purified; only after this time in purgatory can people hope to enter into the joyful presence of God in heaven. In addition, people are told that in order to obey God, they have to confess their sins at least once a year to a priest and have to engage in acts of penance.

Moreover, people are told that faithfulness to God means they have to believe that when the priest elevates the wafer and the chalice of wine mixed with water at the celebration of the Eucharist (or Lord's Supper), invoking the Holy Spirit to come upon the elements, the bread and the wine are mystically transformed in the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE FROM WITHIN EVANGELICALISM

### Personal words from the Lord

“God told me \_\_\_\_\_” Note: this point is not a denial of the gift of prophecy (for continuationists).

### Personal experience

*“Refresh yourself in the Peace of My Presence. This Peace can be your portion at all times and in all circumstances. Learn to hide in the secret of My Presence, even as you carry out your duties in the world. I am both with you and within you. I go before you to open up the way, and I also walk alongside you. There could never be another companion as*

*devoted as I am. Because I am your constant Companion, there should be a lightness to your step that is observable to others. Do not be weighed down with problems and unresolved issues, for I am your burden-bearer. In the world you have trials and distress, but don't let them get you down. I have conquered the world and deprived it of power to harm you. In Me you may have confident Peace.” -Sarah Young, Jesus Calling*

### **Legalistic rules of conduct, application of the sufficiency of Scripture**

*“It should encourage us as we try to discover what God would have us to think (about a particular doctrinal issue), to be (in terms of character, emotions, attitude), or to do (in a particular situation). It should warn us that we are to add nothing to Scripture, and that we are to consider no other writings of equal value to Scripture. It should remind us that God does not require us to believe anything about himself or his redemptive work that is not found in Scripture. • It should warn us that no modern revelations from God are to be placed on a level equal to Scripture in authority (a caution about the prophecies). It should remind us that nothing is sin that is not forbidden in Scripture either explicitly or by implication.” -Grudem, Systematic Theology, 130–35*

Have you ever imposed upon yourself a prohibition against some belief or act that is not found in Scripture? What have the results been in your life and ministry?

-It should tell us that nothing is required of us by God that is not commanded in Scripture either explicitly or by implication .

-It should remind us that in our doctrinal and ethical teaching we should emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and be content with what God has revealed in Scripture.

Have you ever wished that the Bible would say more than it does about a certain subject? Or less? What do you think motivated that wish?

If the Bible contains everything we need God to tell us for obeying, trusting, and pleasing him fully, what is the role of the following in helping us to find God's will for ourselves:

- Advice from others
- Sermons or Bible classes
- Our feelings



- The leading of the Holy Spirit as we sense him prompting our inward desires and subjective impressions
- Changes in circumstances

## **THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE**

### **The definition of the authority of Scripture**

In virtue of its divine inspiration, Scripture, as the expression of God's revelation and will to us, possesses the supreme right to command what we are to believe, do, and be (adapted from Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 241).

### **Components of this definition**

- The authority of Scripture is a corollary of the inspiration of Scripture
- Divine author
- Divine author-ity

While there are certainly other authorities in our life (e.g., employers, parents, the government, elders), Scripture holds the supreme place of authority. The authority of Scripture means that to obey Scripture is to obey God, to disobey Scripture is to disobey God, to believe Scripture is to believe God, and to disbelieve Scripture is to disbelieve God. By saying this, we are not equating Scripture with God; we are simply emphasizing that when we deal with Scripture, we have business to do with God whose Word it is. The authority of Scripture intersects with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to grasp the gospel, illumines our understanding of Scripture, enables us to accept divine revelation, convicts us of sin and prompts us toward Christ-likeness, etc.

There are two very common extremes—what are the results of these? Scripture is emphasized and the Holy Spirit is de-emphasized. The Holy Spirit is emphasized and Scripture is de-emphasized.

## **The affirmation of Scripture (small group Bible study)**

*“So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.” -John 7:16–18*

*“So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” -John 8:28*

*“If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.” -John 12:47–50*

*“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” -John 14:10*

*“Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” -John 14:24–26*

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All*

*that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” -John 16:12–15*

*“These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.” -1 Corinthians 2:10–16*

What do these passages affirm about hearing and speaking/teaching/declaring/revealing the words of God, authority (one’s own; of another), truthfulness, understanding (or lack of it), etc.?

## **FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT, APOSTLES, US**

**The authority of the Old and New Testaments: The prophets of the Old Testament spoke and wrote with divine authority**

*“... Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the Lord had commanded him to give to them ...” -Deuteronomy 1:3 “Thus says the Lord”*

**The authority of Old Testament Scripture is attested and submitted to by Jesus**

*“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” -Matthew 5:17–18*

*“Jesus answered them [his religious critics], “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” -John 10:34–36*

*“But Jesus answered them [the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection], “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”The authority of New Testament Scripture is anticipated by Jesus Christ and acknowledged by its apostolic authors.” -Matthew 22:29–32.*

-John 14:26, 16:13 (as seen above)

-1 Thessalonians 4:1–2

-2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14

-The apostles viewed their own writings as divinely authoritative, based on the authority that Jesus himself.

-1 Corinthians 14:37 gave to them to command the church.

-1 Thessalonians 2:13

### **The authority of Scripture is sealed on our hearts by the Holy Spirit**

*“The testimony of the Spirit is more excellent than all reason. For as God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word, so also the Word will not find acceptance in men’s hearts before it is sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit. The same Spirit, therefore, who has spoken through the mouths of the prophets, must penetrate into our hearts to persuade us that they faithfully proclaimed what had been divinely commanded.” -John Calvin, Institutes, 1.7.4)*

### **Application of the authority of Scripture**

Why should it be the case that those who cry out “Abba, Father” fully trust Scripture? Why should it be the case that those who call Jesus “Lord” are fully submitted to Scripture? Why should it be the case that those who are led by the Holy Spirit pay full attention Scripture? Are you fully trusting in/submitted to/directed by (the authority of) Scripture? Think of one specific area of weakness/sin that needs attention: what do you think could help increase your faith/obedience/yeildedness? Scripture is coming under fierce attack today because of the many alleged errors found in it: how can Jesus’ affirmations in the Gospel of John (from our Bible study) be one aspect in our response to detractors from Scripture who attack its truthfulness?

How does your church become an apologetic for the authority of Scripture before the non-Christian world ?

## **The Power of Scripture**

The power of Scripture means that in virtue of its being the Word of God, who is the sovereign Lord and all-powerful King, Scripture effects the purpose for which he gives it. Components of this definition: The power of Scripture does not derive from some mystical property attached to the words of the Bible, which is some kind of mantra or talisman. Rather, it is due to the fact that God speaks his Word—Scripture is the Word of God—and effectively creates, saves, convicts, rebukes, warns, corrects, equips, challenges, comforts, commands, promises, transforms, and the like; Scripture is a personal address from God to us. It is also due to the fact that the Word of God never operates apart from the Spirit of God, who grants conviction, understanding, reception, faith, and the like (1 Thessalonians 1:5 emphasizes that “our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction”).

## **Some examples of the power of divine speech**

These examples help us see how written divine speech—Scripture, when either read or heard—can be powerful.

The creation of the universe: God spoke, and the entire cosmos and everything in it came into existence; this is exemplified in Gen. 1:3: God spoke and the light came into existence.

Reflect on the power of God’s speech in creation:

*“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host ... For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.” -Psalm 33:6, 9*

The healing of the centurion’s servant:

*“When he [Jesus] had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ‘Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.’ And he said to him, ‘I will come and heal him.’ But the centurion replied, ‘Lord, I am not worthy to have*

*you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.” -  
Matthew 8:5–8*

The fulfillment of God’s promise to David that his son Solomon, not him (David), would build the temple in Jerusalem:

*“[Solomon speaks]: ‘Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel....’ [Solomon prays], ‘O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.’” -2 Chronicles 6:7–10, 14–15*

### **Some examples of the power of Scripture**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” -Romans 1:16–17, a word of salvation.*

*“...You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God....And this word is the good news that was preached to you.” -1 Peter 1:23, 25, a word of regeneration.*

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” -Romans 10:13, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, a word bringing faith/belief.*

*“Blessed is the man [whose...] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” -Psalm 1:1–3, a word of blessing.*

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, here I am! Send me.’ And he said, ‘Go, and say to this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.’ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he [Jesus] said, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’” -Isaiah 6:8–10, Luke 8:9–10, a word of judgment.*

## **YOU AND ME, YOUR CHURCH**

### **The affirmation of Scripture**

*“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” -Hebrews 4:12*

*“Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another.” -Jeremiah 23:28–30*

*“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” -Isaiah 55:10–11*

## **Application of the power of Scripture**

The Bible is “our adversary,” for it always confronts us with demands for reformation. For example, if you are weighed down with guilt and consider yourself a miserable example of a Christian, how does Scripture address you? But if you are patting yourself on the back, congratulating yourself for being God’s gift to the world, how then does Scripture address you?

As John Webster notes, “Scripture is as much a de-stabilizing feature of the church as it is a factor in its cohesion and continuity.” How does your church become an apologetic for the power of Scripture before the non-Christian world ?

## **CONCLUSION**

Scripture is inspired, or God-breathed, sufficient, authoritative and powerful.