

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**September 6, 2015**  
**Strong Foundations: The Bible**

- ♥ What we believe about the Bible determines how we live out our faith.
  - Three basic positions concerning authority. Who determines what we believe?
    - The Church as final authority -
    - Christian Existentialism - The Bible is true except where it contradicts my experience. (The most common)
    - Scripture is truth - experience has its explanation in the Word, whether I see it or not.
  - **We believe the Bible to be the directly inspired Word of God.** It is our final authority for faith and practice. Our job is to rightly divide. 2 Timothy 3:15-16 / 2 Timothy 2:15
  - Today's Bible is complete and can never be changed, added to, or reduced. Numbers 23:19 / Revelation 22:18-19
- ♥ Evidence for the truth of the Scripture
  - Inductive evidence:
    - Consistency: The Bible is composed of 66 books written by 40 different people over a period of about 1800 years. It has no contradictions and one great theme: Redemption.
    - High moral tone and brutal honesty. Why would a man establish a code that would by its nature be too difficult to keep? The Bible is painfully truthful concerning the failings of its heroes
    - Supernatural influence: it changes cultures, lives, and nations.
    - Durable: It has survived every attempt to destroy it and every attempt to disprove it..
    - The Bible contains fulfilled prophecies on a level no other religion can even remotely approximate.
  - The Bible claims its own inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:16 / 2

Peter 1:16-21

- Jesus testifies: Matthew 5:18 / Luke 24:27,44 / John 14:26 / John 16:12-15
  - The Epistle writers: 1 Corinthians 9:1 / 1 Thessalonians 2:13 / Ephesians 3:1-7 / 2 Peter 3:2,15-16
- ♥ If the Bible is the Word of God, what does that mean to me?
    - It is truth and **deserves careful study and obedience.** 2 Timothy 2:15 / 2 Timothy 3:16-17 / Acts 17:11
    - I need **sound principles of study** in order to grasp the Word for me. A good translation, a good concordance, and a good dictionary.
      - Pray for illumination. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 / Eph 1:15-19
      - Read the Bible in context. What is the subject? Who is speaking, to whom, about what?. If he is writing to unbelievers, don't try to apply the concept to your life.
      - Compare scripture with scripture; see what the whole Bible says about it, not just one verse.
      - Always study with the question, "How can I apply this to my daily life?"
    - **I have a final authority in every area of my life.** I no longer depend on relatives, schoolteachers, the media, or any other source to find out who I am, how I should live, or what constitutes a successful life. If the Bible says it, then that is how it is.
      - If the Bible says I can do all things, then I can.
      - If it says I can be joyful, then I can.
      - If it says God hears my prayers, then He does.
      - If the Bible advocates a moral and behavioral standard, then I am committed to follow it.

**“This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I have what it says I have. I can do what it says I can do.”**

**John Osteen**