

# Hope U: The Bible's Authority

## Week 1

### Introduction

#### Overview of our four weeks together:

**Week one:** The Bible's unity

**Week two:** Manuscript and archaeological evidence

**Week three:** Jesus and the resurrection

**Week four:** Questions and answers from God's Word (please write them out and give them to me) with Frank Turek, an internationally known author, broadcaster, and apologist.

### Part One

Recent conversations centering around Andy Stanley. Can we say, "The Bible says so?"

Yes, we can, but why is the Bible authoritative for us? More than because we say so.

We say so because we Christians believe that God wrote the Holy Bible. It is an unchanging textbook that speaks to all areas of faith and practice. The Bible is "canon" (meaning "measurement"). There is a clear meaning to each text.

The Bible is canonical because it's inspired. As Jesus was totally human and totally divine, so is the Bible. It was written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible's self-attestation: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration from God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16).

"Holy" means different. "Bible" means book. The Bible is a different book from all the books in the world. It's been the number one best seller for years.

A sentence to consider: The Bible has 66 books that were written over a span of 1500 years, by dozens of authors, on three continents, in three different languages, with one unified message: Jesus saves us from our sins. The interlinks and unity of narrative are amazing. Coincidence? Or did the Holy Spirit write it?

**This course's purpose is for you to feel confident when you say, "The Bible says so." There are reasons for your confidence in the Bible's authority.**

Christians must be people of the Book. Speak Scripture as a second language.

That is the purpose of this 4-week course.

## Part Two

### A Bible overview with four acts:

**Act 1:** Creation (Genesis 1-2)

**Act 2:** Fall (Genesis 3)

**Act 3:** Redemption (Genesis 4-Jude)

**Act 4:** Restoration (Revelation and other Scripture)

### The Old Testament is divided into:

- The Pentateuch (the first five books: Genesis-Deuteronomy)
- The Historical books (Joshua-2 Chronicles)
- The Wisdom Literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes)
- The Prophets (Isaiah-Malachi)

### The New Testament is divided into:

- The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- The Formation of the Church (Acts)

-Key verse is Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea (chapters 1-7), Samaria (chapters 8-12), and to the end of the earth” (chapters 13-28).*

- The Epistles (Romans-Jude)

-the authority of the apostles

- The New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation and other verses)

### Keys to reading the Scripture:

1. A text out of context is pretext
2. Interpret the Bible with the Bible
3. Interpret the Old Testament with the New Testament
4. Interpret the gospels with the epistles
5. Always begin reading by asking the Holy Spirit to give you insights into the text you're reading, always with two essential questions in your mind:  
*a) What does it mean? b) What does it mean to me?*

6. Read it as a progressive narrative
7. See God as Trinitarian from Genesis 1:1 onward. The Trinity is an eternal fact seen throughout the entire biblical story

**Final thought:** the Bible is history...HIS story...to give us the gift of eternal life through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection

See you next week...and don't forget your questions!