

Further Study: Trusting the Bible Text

From church teaching 26 July 2026, Pastor Gareth Bruce

Key Passage: 2 Peter 1:16–21

Peter reminds us that the Christian message is not based on myths or cleverly invented stories but on eyewitness testimony and the work of the Holy Spirit through the prophets.

Reflect

The study highlighted six reasons for trusting the Bible: eyewitness accounts, ancient texts, archaeological evidence, fulfilled prophecy, accurate transmission, and the Bible's honesty about human failure.

Consider these questions:

1. Which of these six evidences do you find most convincing, and why? Or, which one resonates best with you?
2. How / why does Peter connect his personal experience with Jesus to his confidence in Scripture? (2 Peter 1:16–21)
3. Why is the discovery of ancient manuscripts, such as the Isaiah Scroll, important for understanding the reliability of the Bible text?
4. What role can archaeology and historical evidence play in strengthening a believer's faith?
5. Is faith the absence of questions, or can faith and healthy scepticism coexist?
Discuss Oscar Wilde's statement: "Scepticism is the beginning of faith."

Dig Deeper

Read the following passages and note what they teach about the trustworthiness of God's Word:

- Psalm 119:89–90
- Isaiah 40:8
- Matthew 5:17–18
- John 17:17
- 2 Timothy 3:14–17
- Hebrews 4:12

Application

Many people today place confidence in information found online while being sceptical of the Bible. The challenge for Christians is not simply to defend the Bible

intellectually but to read it, obey it, and experience its transforming power personally.

This week, read just one Gospel chapter each day and ask: (pick anything you want)

- What does this teach me about Jesus?
- What evidence do I see that the writers were concerned with truth?
- How might I respond to, or take action on what I have read?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for preserving Your Word through the centuries. Help me not simply to believe the Bible is trustworthy, but to trust You as I read it. Give me wisdom to examine the evidence honestly and faith to follow where the truth leads. Amen.