

Doctrine of the Word: Part 2

The Bible Speaks on Its Authority

1. **The Bible's Authority Extends to All Scripture.** **2 Timothy 3:16** "All" is the Greek word *pas* meaning "all inclusive." Every Word of Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God. Paul was referring to the Old Testament Scriptures but the "all" principle is true and applies to the New Testament Scriptures as well.
2. **The Bible's Authority Includes All the Words.** Paul received his words from God (**1 Cor 2:6-16; Gal. 1:12, 15-17**) "not after man" i.e. any human source but directly from Jesus (**Gal. 1:11-12**). Peter said in **2 Peter 1:16-21** that no part of the Word of God is of "any private interpretation" (*genetai* here means "origin"). Scripture is not the personal or private ideas of the human writers but of God (v. 20) who moved the will of the writers by the Holy Spirit (v. 21).
3. **The Bible's Authority Includes the Smallest part of every letter in Every Word.** **Mt. 5:18.** The "jot" refers to the Hebrew letter *yod*, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The *tittle* was the small projection on some letters of the Hebrew alphabet. So Jesus said, Assuredly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, neither the *yod*, the smallest letter, or the *tittle*, the smallest part of a letter, will by no means pass from the law until all is fulfilled.
4. **The Bible's Authority Includes Grammar and Verb Tenses.** In **Matthew 22:29-33** Jesus stated emphatically that God is the "God of the living" referring to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Using an aorist passive participle Jesus stated that these three Patriarchs had been living in the past but were still living in the present and therefore destined to be resurrected. Jesus also used the emphatic form of the verb *eimi* in **John 8:53-59** to reveal His own eternal existence (v. 56).

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