**“How to Know that the Bible Is the Word of God” The Present Truth 12, 24, pp. 373, 374.**

THE Bible comes to men as the Word of God. In every part it speaks to men as from God and upon the authority of God. But how shall men who do not know God know that it is the Word of God? This is the question that thousands of people ask. They ask, “What proof is there, where is the evidence that it is the Word of God? {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 373.1}

There is evidence—evidence that every man can have—evidence that is convincing and satisfactory. Where is it, then? Let us see. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 373.2}

**WHOM SHALL WE ASK**

BEING the Word of God, where could evidence be found that it is such? Where should we expect to find such evidence? Is there anyone of greater knowledge than God, or of greater authority than He, of whom we may inquire?—Certainly not. For whoever God may be, there can be no higher authority, there can be none of greater knowledge. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 373.3}

Suppose, then, we were to ask God whether this is His Word, and suppose He should tell us in just so many words, “The Bible is My Word,” we should have *His word* for it. But *we have that already*, over and over; so that even then we should have no more evidence than we now have in abundance; and the evidence would be in nowise different; for it would be the evidence of His word, and that we already have. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 373.4}

The Word of God bears in itself the evidence that it is the Word of God. It is impossible that it could be otherwise. If God had never yet spoken a word to the human family, and should this day send a message to all people at once and in their own native tongues, that word, being the word of God, would *have* to bear in itself the evidence of its being the word of God; for the people could not possibly inquire of any other, because there is no other person whose knowledge or authority is equal to this. Bearing in itself the evidence of its being the word of God, all the people could obtain this evidence by accepting it as the word of God. Each one who did this would know that it was the word of God, for he would have the evidence in the word, and by accepting it, also in himself. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 373.5}

**HOW TO GET THE EVIDENCE**

THIS is precisely the position that the Bible occupies toward the people of this world. It comes as the Word of God. As such it must bear the evidence in itself, for there can be no higher, no better evidence. Whoever receives it as the Word of God, receives in it and in himself the evidence that it is the Word of God. And so it is written, “When ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it *not as the word of men;* but as it is in truth, the word of God, which *effectually worketh also* in you that believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 17:1, 2. And again: “A new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true *in Him* and *in you*.” 1 John 2:8. And again, “My doctrine is not Mine, but his that sent Me. If any man will [is willing to] do His will, *he shall know* of the doctrine, *whether it be of God*, or whether I speak of Myself.” John 7:16, 17. Thus he who accepts the Word as the Word of God. He who will not accept the Word cannot have the evidence; in rejecting the Word, he rejects the evidence, because the evidence is in the Word. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 374.1}

To make this yet plainer if possible, especially to those who doubt that the Bible is the Word of God, we may for the sake of the case suppose that it were not, and that the God of the Bible were not, and that the God of the Bible were not the true God. Suppose then that we should find the true God and ask Him, and suppose He would say, “It is not the Word of God.” We should then have only *His word;* and the only way that we could know that this answer were true would be by believing its, by accepting it as the word of God. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 374.2}

So that the only way in which any person could surely know that the Bible is not the Word of God, would be by the Word of God. And even though they had the word of God to this effect, the only way that they could be sure of it—the only *evidence* they could have—would be by believing that word. But there is no word of God that the Scriptures are not the Word of God, while there is the word of God that the Scriptures are the Word of God. That Word of God bears in itself the evidence that it is the Word of God. And every soul who will receive it as it is, will get the evidence. The evidence will be plain to him who believes the Word. {PTUK June 11, 1896, p. 374.3}

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