

Section 1

The Attributes of Scripture



God and Scripture

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness . . .

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

If we are going to rightly understand what kind of book the Bible is, we need to start with the relationship between God and the Bible. Our verse today clearly tells us what the connection is between God and the Bible. It says that *“all Scripture is breathed out by God.”*

When we speak words, air or breath comes out of our mouths. If you hold your hand right in front of your mouth and speak, you will feel the breath on your hand. You cannot speak words without breathing out. When Paul says that God has *“breathed out”* the Scriptures, he is telling us that the words of the Bible are the very words of God. Just like you and I breathe out when we speak words, so too the Scriptures are result of God speaking.

It is true that God used humans to physically write down the words that are in our Bibles, but He used those people in such a way that they wrote the exact words that He wanted them to write. In 2 Peter 1:21, we find this: *“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”* In neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament were the writers simply making up what they were writing.

Peter says that they were *“carried along by the Holy Spirit.”* This means that God was closely involved with the writing of Scripture. He was so close that Paul could say that God breathed the Scriptures out!

When we think about the Bible and the words that are in it, we shouldn't think about it like we do other books. Every other book is the result of the creative imagination of humans. But the Bible is not just a book written by man, it is a book breathed out by God Himself. This means that when we read the Scriptures, we are reading the Word of God.

Because the Bible is the Word of God to us, we should learn to love and cherish it more than any other book. It should be the book we most read and think about. It should be the words we most care about. When you read or hear the Bible read, remember that you are hearing the very Word of God.



Prayer: Our awesome God and Father, thank You for speaking to us in Your holy Scriptures. We praise You that the Bible is not just a book written by humans, but it has been breathed out by You. Please forgive us for not treating Your Word with the value and attention it deserves. We ask that You would give us grace to cherish the Bible and to see it for what it truly is—the very Word of God. Amen.

Song: *How Great Thou Art* (SH 33)

Hymn: *Father of Mercies, in Thy Word*, verse 1

Father of mercies, in Thy Word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

Theology Question 1: What is the Bible?

Answer: The Bible is the very Word of God.

Authoritative: Scripture Deserves Our Attention and Obedience

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

PSALM 145:1-7

The Bible is authoritative. That means the words of the Bible deserve our attention and obedience. The words that we read or that are spoken to us carry the authority of the people who write or speak them. If your friend says to you, “Clean your room,” you probably won’t feel like you have to do it. That is because your friend does not have authority over you.

But if your father or mother says the same words—“Clean your room”—you will feel that you should obey because they are your parents and have authority over you. Authority is not about the words that are spoken, but about the *person* who speaks the words.

The reason the Bible deserves our attention and is to be obeyed is that it is the Word of God. As we saw in our Scripture reading, God is the most glorious person who ever existed. Who God is and what He has done are worthy of being handed down from generation to generation. When we take the time to think about who God is and what He has done, it leaves us speechless.

God deserves the praise of all of creation, not only humans, but everything that has been made! He deserves the praise of the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. He deserves the praise of the tallest mountain and the lowest valley. God deserves the worship of the most well-known human and the person no one has ever heard of.

God is so great that not only should everything praise Him, but His praises will never end. God is greater than anyone else in the world. His praises will go on “*forever and ever*.” God’s greatness is “*unsearchable*.” This means that God is so great we will never be able to understand how great He truly is.

When we think about what the Bible says about who God is, we quickly realize that He is a person unlike any other we have ever seen or met. He is the only person who deserves to be listened to and obeyed by all things because He created all things, and He has authority over all things.

When we pick up the Bible to read or listen, we must remember who is speaking these words. We must remember that they are the words of God. Because they are His words, we should seek to understand them and to obey what they say.



Prayer: O Lord, great is Your name! You are worthy of all our praise. You deserve to be worshiped forever and ever. Thank You for showing us Your glory and greatness in Your Word. You are far greater than any other. Please forgive us for not giving Your words the attention and obedience they deserve. Please give us grace and help us to know Your Word and to obey what You say. Amen.

Song: *Behold Our God* (SH 14)

Hymn: *Forever Settled in the Heavens*, verse 1

Forever settled in the heav’ns,
Thy Word, O Lord, shall firmly stand;
Thy faithfulness shall never fail;
The earth abides at Thy command.

Theology Question 2: Why does the Bible deserve our attention and obedience?

Answer: The Bible deserves our attention and obedience because it is God’s Word.