

# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

Can the Christian Faith be  
Believed, Trusted, Followed,  
and Shared?

- ▶ Why this series?
- ▶ Culture in which we live
- ▶ Confusion about the faith
  - ▶ (HB 10.23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.)
- ▶ Insecurity about the faith
  - ▶ (2 TM 1.7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.)
- ▶ Lack of trusted vocabulary
  - ▶ (1 PT 3.15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect)
- ▶ Need to objectify what is subjective

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# Kenneth Boa and John Alan Turner, Hearts and Minds

- ▶ Experiential Faith
- ▶ Affiliative Faith
- ▶ Inquisitive Faith
- ▶ Owned Faith

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- ▶ An encounter with a disorienting dilemma—which creates a sense of dissatisfaction with the present mindset.
- ▶ They examine themselves and recurrent feelings (guilt, fear, anger, etc.)
- ▶ They question previously held assumptions
- ▶ They explore alternative options
- ▶ They begin to envision an new course of action/way of thinking (feeling/believing)
- ▶ They gather the necessary information and skills to move forward in a new course of action
- ▶ They “try on” these new perspectives, roles, and behaviors to see how they fit
- ▶ They gain confidence in these new roles and behaviors
- ▶ They integrate newfound perspectives and ways of thinking into their lives

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The **BIG** question:

**Does God exist?**

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Can the Bible be trusted?

LC #3: What is the Word of God?

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.

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## Can the Bible be trusted?

- ▶ <sup>2</sup> <sup>TM</sup> 3.16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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## How did we get the Bible?

- ▶ How we did NOT get it: God “delivered” it
- ▶ One author

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## How DID we get the Bible?

- ▶ Action of God
  - ▶ Stories told
- ▶ Written tradition
- ▶ Scribal accuracy
  - ▶ (WSJ 1.27.86)

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## Historical validity

- ▶ OT scribal process
- ▶ Masoretic Text
  - ▶ Dated @ 900 AD, written 400 BC
    - ▶ 1300 year gap
    - ▶ Compared with GK & LT, agreement!

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Dead Sea Scrolls

150 BC-70 AD

1000 year jump from  
Masoretic Text

Incredible comparison!

- ▶ Rise of literature to Scripture status
  - ▶ Gospels
  - ▶ Epistles
    - ▶ Apostolic authorship
    - ▶ Ecclesiastical usage
    - ▶ Congruence with sound doctrine
- ▶ Grouping of documents into sub-collections
- ▶ Canonization proper-development of lists
  - ▶ Carthage, 397 AD, canon fixed

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- ▶ Tests to determine New Testament historical validity
- ▶ Bibliographic test
  - ▶ In absence of original documents, how reliable are manuscripts and time between original and existing copies?
- ▶ Internal evidence test
  - ▶ How do the claims of the author stack up against himself and others?
- ▶ External evidence test
  - ▶ Can other historical material confirm or deny the document's claims?

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▶ Recommended Resources:

▶ Know Why You Believe, Paul Little

▶ More Than a Carpenter, Josh McDowell

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