

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**  
**THE BIBLE: ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE**  
**THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 2:13; 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17**

**INTRODUCTION**

Understand that a basic foundation for this matter of discipleship is establishing the authority of the Word of God! This is true whether you are on the receiving end of discipleship training or whether you are on the teaching end of discipleship training!

It is absolutely essential that we see and understand that "**THE BIBLE IS OUR FINAL AUTHORITY**" or we could say it this way "**THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY RULE FOR OUR FAITH AND PRACTICE.**"

Every **church, cult, and "-ism"** that there is rests for their rule for faith and practice **upon something or someone:**

- 1. Some rest upon a book or books written by a man or a woman that are used to take the place of or used in addition to the Bible the Bible, or used to explain the Bible, or.**

Mormons – The Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants, The Pearl of Great Price.

Jehovah's Witnesses – Reasoning from the Scriptures; Insight on the Scriptures, Mankind's Search for God, etc., etc.

Seventh Day Adventist – Writings of Ellen G. White

- 2. Some rest upon their founder or successor to the founder, to whom they look for every decision and rule.**

Mormon – Joseph Smith, Jr. (1830-1844) –  
Presently Russell M. Nelson since 1/14/2018

Jehovah's Witnesses – Charles Taze Russell (1870-1916) –  
Presently Robert Ciranko since about 2014.

- 3. Some rest upon a hierarchy of authority in their Churches such as the Popes, cardinals, councils in the Catholic Church.**

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- 4. Some rest upon human reasoning, or what they call science, and some on convenience.**
- 5. Some may rest upon personal experience, emotional thrills or aesthetic appeal.**

However, true believers through the centuries, have insisted that the Bible is the sole ultimate written authority for Christian faith and practice.

They have resisted those who claimed otherwise, including popes, kings, bishops, pastors and teachers. Both religious and secular powers have persecuted true believers for this commitment to the authority of the Bible.

**It is of utmost importance that one looks to the Bible alone as the ONLY rule for faith and practice! Why? Because:**

- I. BECAUSE OF THE DIVINE NATURE OF THE BIBLE.**

Basically, we consider the Bible as authoritative for faith and practice because of its very nature.

**The Divine nature of the Bible is the basis of its authority!**

No other writing compares to the Bible! The Bible stands alone among all other writings in that **it is uniquely from God and about God and His plan and purpose for the ages!**

For much of our history, we believers who are Baptists have simply accepted the authority of the Bible based on belief in its divine nature. Scriptures have been and are still quoted to validate our beliefs and practices without much effort to "*prove*" the Divine nature of the Bible.

**We emphasize that the Bible is the sole written authority for Christian faith and practice and we deny that for other writings!**