

Theme:

The authority of the Word of God is demonstrated primarily by God himself and his Word and secondarily by the church.

The authority of Scripture—the inherent right they posses that makes it necessary for us to believe every truth and to obey every command.

The Spirit's Witness

This witness of the Holy Spirit "does not consist of ecstasy or enthusiasm. It is a certain light that is sprinkling our mind in such a way that the mind is affected softly by it, while showing the reasons implanted in the Word itself, criteria that were previously hidden."—Johannes Maccovius

The Word's Own Witness

autopistis—self-testifying

The Church's Witness

We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts. (WCF 1.5)

Conclusion