

Chapter Four

The Bible Is God's Word

The Bible is God's Word, it is the literal Word of God

I. The Actual Word of God

- A. The phrase, **Word of Lord** appears 253 x's in the Bible.
- B. The phrase **Word of God** appears 47 x's in the Bible.
- C. The phrase **God said** appears 572 x's in the Bible
- D. The Word of God speaks directly to this issue
 1. I Thessalonians 2:13 *And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us **the word of God's message**, you accepted it **not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe.*
 2. I Thessalonians 4:8 *Consequently, he who rejects this **is not rejecting man but the God** who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*
 3. Isaiah 1:10 ***Hear the word of the Lord**, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah.*
 4. Psalms 119:4 ***Thou hast ordained Thy precepts**, That we should keep them diligently.*

II. The Word of God Is Inspired - "God breathed"

A. Established by the Word of God

The Word of God does not distinguish between the authority of the differing persons of the trinity? In other words, the Word of God give the same authority to God the Father than to God the Son or to God the Son than to God the Holy Spirit.

Examples:

A teaching of God the Father:

Exod 3:14

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (NAS)

A teaching of God the Son:

Matt 16:24

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (NAS)

A teaching of God the Holy Spirit:

Eph 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, (NAS)

Ultimately it is the Holy Spirit who is responsible for the inspiration of the Word of God. Those who ask the question, "Yes, but what did Jesus say?" Might more correctly ask, "Yes, but what did Luke write?" For Jesus did not actually write

any words in the Bible. All that is in the Bible which we know to be the teachings of God the Son are given to us by the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit. No matter which Person of the Trinity is recorded as speaking in the Word of God it is being recorded under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

1. II Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
2. No matter which person of the Trinity is speaking divine inspiration is taking place. We do not pit the members of the Trinity against themselves.

B. How

1. II Peter 1:20 & 21 *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*
2. II Samuel 23:2 *"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.*
3. I Chronicles 28:19 *"All this," said David, "the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern."*
4. The above passages do not allow for the authors own prejudices or values to be added to the scriptures.
5. Although we may speak of "The Law of Moses" or "The Book of John" or again, "The Letters of Paul", in reality it is God who is the author and protector of the Word of God. It is in fact the Word of God first, last and always.

C. Old Testament – How did the accounts of creation, Adam & Eve, Cain & Able, Babel, the flood, Abraham etc., come down to Moses?

Oral tradition passed down by the Jews around campfires and in homes until Moses finally assembled them? Amalgamation of memories of pagan religions and traditions, molded into history and law by Moses? Research on the part of Moses in Pharaoh's libraries?

It is a common misconception that the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, referred to by the Word of God as, The Law of Moses, was handed down orally over the years and finally compiled by Moses and his descendents into the form which we have today.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Law of Moses was dictated by God to Moses and preserved by the Holy Spirit.

There is no indication from the scriptures that before Moses came down from Mt. Sinai and began meeting regularly with God that any of the information about the history of man and the nation of Israel was known by the people of Israel other than that Joseph wanted his bones brought out of Egypt when God gave deliverance. They may have been knowledge, there may not, but there is no indication from any of the historical revelation and record that Israel was maintaining and passing down an oral tradition.

They may have had some idea of who they were and what had happened, but the truth, the Word of God, the divine Historical and Spiritual Revelation of God was given to them at Sinai and from then on the Word of God was a unique compiled living document under the careful watch of the Holy Spirit, as Moses met with God in the tent of meeting

in the Tabernacle. No other account for the giving of the Word of God appears for this time period.

1. Written By God:

Exodus 32:15 & 16 *Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were written on both sides; they were written on one side and the other. And the tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets.*

2. Written By Moses (after he broke the first set because of his anger towards Israel and their idolatry.)

Exodus 34:1 *Now the Lord said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered.*

Exodus 34:27 & 28 *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.*

3. Moses Teaches Israel

Exodus 34:31 – 33 *Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers in the congregation returned to him; and Moses spoke to them. And afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he commanded them to do everything that the Lord had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.*

4. these are called the Ten Commandments

DEU 4:13 *"So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

5. The Revelation was not limited to the Ten Commandments

Ex 20: 1- 21 vs. Ex. 20:22 & 21:1

Dt. 5: 1 – 21 vs. Dt. 6: 1 – 4

6. The was continual ongoing revelation between Moses and God, which was then passed down to the nation of Israel.

a. The commands by God for Moses to record His Word predate the giving of the Law on Sinai

EXO 17:14 ¶ *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial, and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."*

b. An continue after Sinai

Exodus 33:7 – 9 *Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And it came about, that everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. And it came about, whenever*

Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the Lord would speak with Moses.

Leviticus 9:23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.

Numbers 11:24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent.

c. God was sovereignly watching over the writing of His Word and did so until He deemed it complete.

Deuteronomy 31:24 And it came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete,

7. This work came to be known as the Law of Moses. It is clearly evident from these passages that the Law of Moses was not simply the Ten Commandments.

a. First mention in the Bible of the Law of Moses

Joshua 8:31 just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones, on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings.

b. During the time of Kings – the Law of Moses was the Word of God.

I Kings 2:3 "And keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn.

c. The Law here clearly entails more than the initial Ten Commandments.

Ezra 3:2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

d. Here the Law, is still being used after the dissolution of the nation of Israel during the time of the dispersion. The phrase “as it is written...” clearly interprets the Law of Moses to be the first five books of the Bible and not simply the ten commandments.

Daniel 9:13 "As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Thy truth.

e. The last book of the Old Testament still refers to the Law of Moses. Again the Law of Moses refers here not to the Ten Commandments but the statutes and ordinances.

Malachi 4:4 "Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

f. The reference to the “days of their purification”, which are not mentioned in the technical ten commandments, clearly indicate the term Law of Moses was meant to be a reference for the entire revelation of the Pentateuch.

Luke 2:22 And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

g. Jesus Christ presents the Pentateuch as the Law of Moses and one of the divisions of the Old Testament. Messianic types and prophecies found in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers are here referred to and not simply the ten commandments.

Luke 24:44 *Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

- h. During the time of the Acts of the Apostles the Pharisees still held to the Pentateuch, e.g. – the Law of Moses. Circumcision, is introduced in the command of Genesis 17:10 and is directly commanded nowhere else in the Pentateuch save for the book of Genesis. In fact of the 18 times “Circumcised” is mentioned in the Pentateuch, 15 times in Genesis. Thus the Law of Moses was viewed as the Pentateuch and not merely the ten commandments. In fact to extend the Law beyond the ten commandments, but to exclude any book of the Pentateuch is purely arbitrary on the part of the teacher.**

Acts 15:5 *But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."*

- i. The Word of God, presents the Pentateuch, e.g. The Law of Moses, as one of the natural divisions of the Word of God. Were it not to include all five books of the Pentateuch and rather the ten commandments, these passages would not make sense. Were it to include only the legal aspects of the Bible then you would have difficulty with those books which contain both legal and historical revelation. In fact all five books of the Pentateuch contain both legal and historical revelation.**

Acts 28:23 *And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.*

- j. Here again, as throughout the New Testament, we see that reference to the Law of Moses was not limited, by the Apostles, to the Ten Commandments. In the passages below, neither of the commands attributed to the Law of Moses are found in the ten commandments. The Word of God is resplendent with passages such as this which clearly extend the boundaries of the Law to the entire Pentateuch.**

I Corinthians 9:9 *For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He?*

Hebrews 9:19 *For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,*

The book of Genesis is included by God as one of the books of His laws

GEN 26:5 *because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws. "*

In the book of Genesis...

Circumcised occurs 15 times

Altar in reference to God occurs 11

Sacrifice(s) occurs 2

Tenth (tithe) occurs 2

All these and more are aspects of the command of God, are under the regulations of the laws of God as laid down by Moses. When speaking of the Law of Moses, we therefore include the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy as given to Moses at Sinai and through continuing revelation during his visits to the tabernacle.

D. The New Testament supports the view of the inspiration of the Old Testament.

1. Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
2. Galatians 3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.
3. Acts 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it. "
4. Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
5. Luke 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
6. II Peter 3:2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

E. Paul – There are a number of questions which people ask concerning Paul, which in fact concern God the Holy Spirit. To question the authority of any individual used by God to pass to us His Words is in fact to question the authority, sovereignty and ability of God to watch over and deliver to us the Word of God.

1. Did Paul interject his own thoughts into the chapters of the Bible which he wrote?

- a. The Word of God clearly teaches that Paul's writings are inspired by God - I Thessalonians 2:13 *And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*
- b. God further develops this in 2 Pet 3:14-17

2 Pet 3:14-17

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness,

(NAS)

- c. God requires of us diligence to be found spotless in Him - 14
Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,
- d. Paul's writings were "given to him" they did not spring from him - 15
and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

- e. All of Paul's letters fall within that body of writing represented by the Holy Spirit as "Scriptures" - 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
- f. We are to guard ourselves against unprincipled men who would lead us away from steadfast faith by the questioning of His writings - 17
You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness,
- g. What is contained in the writings of Paul are the Words of God to us the church. We do not have to "weed out" Paul's thinking, prejudices or thoughts from the Bible.

2. Why does Paul speak to some issues that Jesus did not (homosexuals, women leadership, submission of women in marriage, spanking)?

- a. We do not know what was the breadth of the teachings of Jesus. From the gospels we receive that which God desires. From the Word of God we receive the complete revelation of the Word of God. God never meant the gospels to be the total revelation of God.
- b. The Gospels contain the Gospels, the Bible contains the revelation of God - John 21:25 *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.*
- c. To say that Paul's writing exceed those of Jesus is to say...
 - 1.) that the teachings of God the Holy Spirit exceed those of God the Son.
 - 2.) It is to say that you know that Jesus did not speak on a subject
 - 3.) that you know that Paul went beyond the teachings of Jesus.
 - 4.) It is to say that you rather than God are best able to judge the Word of God.
 - 5.) I Corinthians 14:37 *If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.*
 - 6.) I Thessalonians 4:2 *For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

3. Did the harshness and rigorous training Paul received before his conversion shape his teachings in terms of bigotry's and prejudices?

- a. It is God's will, not Paul's which is given to us in his writings. - I Thessalonians 4:8 Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.
- b. Paul, in fact, rejected his past completely. He viewed it as loss. He was rejected completely by the Pharisees and Sadducees and Priests and likewise he rejected that lifestyle and worldview as "filthy rags".
- c. It is not his past, but rather the Lord God which is represented in his writings. Phil 3:7-8
7 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*
8 *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,*

4. How are the writings of Paul different from those of other great biblical scholars throughout the modern age?

a. Paul was an Apostle. He was taught the things of God by Jesus, not by man alone.

b. Paul received his gospel through a revelation of Christ

Gal 1:11-12

11 *For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.*

12 *For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*

(NAS)

c. Paul wrote not by culture, not by prejudice, not by education but rather by revelation.

Ephesians 3:3 *that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.*

d. Ananias himself prophesied over Paul in saying...

Acts 22:14 & 15 "... *The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear an utterance from His mouth. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.*

e. We have total confidence then, that when studying the writings of Paul, we are studying the Word of God. We need be no more leery or cautious in reading the Pauline Epistles than the Law of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Proverbs of Solomon, the Gospel according to Luke, the Acts of the Apostles or any other book in the Bible. All are one in that they are inspired by God, not man.

F. The New Testament

1. What we have said about Paul's writings can be said about the entire New Testament.
2. II Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
3. The Apostles clearly understood that they were ministering in a time of continuing Revelation.
4. Peter understood that Paul's writing were a part of that body of writings known as "Scripture".
5. 2 Pet 3:15-16 *and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*
6. Paul knew this as well when he, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote II Timothy 3:16
7. It is clear from Paul's letter to the Colossians that inspired writings were recognized by the Apostles and were "making the rounds" of the churches. No doubt being read and copied by one before going on to the next.
8. Col 4:16 *And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.*
9. No doubt the church in Laodicea had a manuscript, perhaps a Pauline epistle or one of the others, this being read and copied was to reach Colossia, while the Colossian epistle was to go on to Laodicea. In this way the churches were continually adding to that body of work known as "Scriptures" until the Holy Spirit had provided for the churches the complete Word of God.

10. This process no doubt continued until the writing of the book of Revelation by the Apostle John, the last living Apostle, writing the last book of the Bible, whose last statements close the period of Revelation for the church age.

11. Church councils have in time past as they will in times come spoken or intervened to protect the Word of God from dilution or corruption. They have in this respect the authority to say that which is not the Word of God. No church council or man has the authority to say what is the Word of God. God in His sovereign authority compiled, protected and sustained the Word of God. Revisionist historians would like to attribute the Word of God in its present form to man. If compiled by man then it can be revised by man. Man in his pride may interpret history in this way. We know though from the Biblical account that God, through the church, as directed by the Apostles, complied and distributed the Word of God to the church in the lifetime of the Apostles oversight. That this is the Word of God and this Word of God has been sustained, protected and brought to us today by the same sovereign God who saw fit to create it in the first place. Man may think he did it, man may take credit for doing it, man as represented by councils, churches or educational bodies, but this does not make it so. Man takes credit for many things which God has done, it is no surprise that he takes credit for the compilation of the Word of God. God's Word though remains both pure and a work of God, not because of man or his council but rather in spite of man and his councils. God's Word is that, the Word of God divinely inspired and preserved through God and God alone.

- G. Closed** – one issue that faces the Church today is that of continuing revelation. First there was The Law of Moses, then the historical books, then the poetic books, then the prophetic books, then the gospels and the letters, why stop at the book of Revelation? Who is to say that more books of the Bible have not or are not being written?
1. The following passage is the last passage, in the chapter of the last book written by the last living Apostle. It clearly presents the period of Revelation to be at a close. All churches, receiving this last book by the last Apostle would recognize clearly the teaching of the Holy Spirit that the Word of God, the inspired “Scriptures” were now complete.
 2. Revelation 22:18 & 19 *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*
 3. To seek to limit this interpretation to the book of Revelation is purely an exercise in Symantec gimmickry.
 4. If a Mormon were to come to you and say, “The book of Mormon is the Word of God.” and you were to reply, “No, that is adding to the Word of God” and he retorted, “No, it is a separate book. We have not added to the Bible. Your Bible remains pure and unchanged. This is a separate revelation, ‘The Rest Of The Bible’.” We would of course know that the book of Mormon does indeed add to the scriptures. Simply because they do not go in and change the Bible does not

mean there is no change. The very existence of new Revelation changes the Bible.

5. In the same way those who say that it is not adding to the Book of Revelation simply because they choose to bind these so called revelations separately, does not change the fact that it is new and added Revelation and therefore fallacious in nature. The period of Revelation has ceased for the Church age and Revelation 22 could not make this more clear.

Conclusion: The Entire Bible Is God Breathed

- A. All Scripture therefore is inspired by God. This includes the entirety of both the Old and New Testaments.
- B. All members of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit speak with equal authority in the Word of God.
- C. It is the nature of God which is at stake when questioning the inerrancy of the Word of God.
- D. This inerrant Word of God, comprising of those books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, have come down to us as in perfect and inerrant form, as sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God and comprise that body of writings known as The Bible or Scriptures.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: The Bible is God's Word, it is the literal Word of God****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 1:20, 21****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Samuel 23:2****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: The Bible is God's Word, it is the literal Word of God****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Chronicles 28:19****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 32:15, 16, 19; 34:1, 27, 28, 31 - 33****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 4:2, 8; I Corinthians 14:37****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**