

PATHMARK · COURSE ONE

THE DOCTRINE OF

Scripture

God's Word, breathed out for his people

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 · ESV

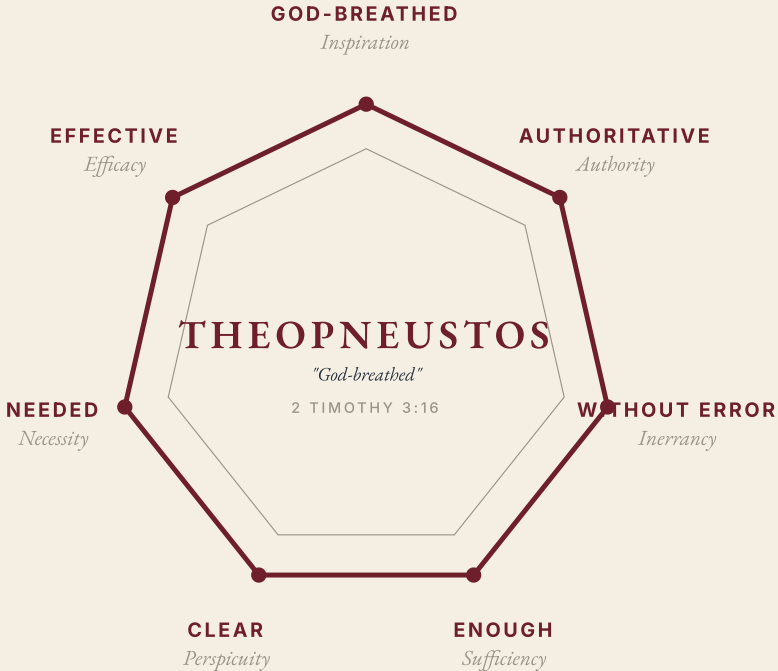
The most astonishing claim of the Christian faith is not that God exists. It is that God speaks. This companion is a place to receive what he has said and to put it to work in your week.

MAYFLOWER CHURCH · KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SEVEN ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE

What the Bible says about itself

Six on the sides, the seventh at the centre — the Greek word Paul gives for the whole.



1 • GOD-BREATHED Scripture is God's own speech, exhaled through chosen human authors.
All Scripture is breathed out by God. — 2 Timothy 3:16

2 • AUTHORITATIVE Because it is God's word, it carries God's own authority.
Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word from God. — Matthew 4:4

3 • WITHOUT ERROR It tells the truth in everything it affirms; its Author cannot lie.
Your word is truth. — John 17:17

4 • ENOUGH It contains all God intends us to have for faith and obedience.
...equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:17

5 • CLEAR Its central message is plain to ordinary readers by the Spirit's help.
The unfolding of your words gives light. — Psalm 119:130

6 • NEEDED Without it we cannot know the gospel or know God savingly.
Faith comes from bearing... the word of Christ. — Romans 10:17

7 • EFFECTIVE God's word acts; it accomplishes what he sends it to do.
My word shall not return to me empty. — Isaiah 55:11

How to open the Bible well

*Doctrine that does not shape practice is doctrine we have not really believed.
Start with one. Not all seven.*

1 PRAY

Before you open the Bible, ask God to speak.
One sentence is enough.

2 PAUSE

Quiet the room and the phone. Give this
passage your full attention.

3 PERCEIVE

Read slowly. Notice who is speaking, to whom,
and about what.

4 PONDER

Ask what this passage says about God, about
people, and about you.

5 PRACTICE

Name one concrete change this passage calls
for. Begin it today.

6 PERSIST

Come back tomorrow. Scripture shapes us over
years, not minutes.

7 PARTNER

Tell someone what you read. Let the word form you in community — at a meal, on a
walk, with a friend who will ask you next week what you saw.

Take it into the week

Fill this in before the Upload step. Then keep this page near your Bible.

COURSE ONE · STEP THIRTEEN

1. Which practice am I choosing?

2. When will I do it, and with whom?

3. Which attribute of Scripture most convinces me that this practice matters — and why?

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

PSALM 119:18 · ESV