
B. DEVELOPING CONVICTIONS

B.11: Doctrines in the Bible [2 Timothy 3:16]

A STORY

In a small group one night we began to discuss different teachings. We began to discuss what make a doctrine in the Bible. It was evident to all that when we read the Bible we see history, we see stories, poetry and prophecy. Where do the doctrines come from? For a doctrine to be discovered there must be several passages that speak to that teaching. For example, one man said he was confused about the Holy Spirit. He had read only one verse and was drawing all kinds of conclusions about the Holy Spirit. Who is he? Where did he come from? How do we connect to him? These discussions were difficult. The leader suggested that they study all the verses in the Bible about the Holy Spirit. When they did that they began to shape from all the passages about what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit. The conclusion was drawn that when we have a doctrinal question we must go to the whole Bible to discern what the doctrine (teaching) is.

As you grow as a Christian it is an important foundational time to be sure that certain doctrines are solid in your thinking as a follower of Christ. There are many false doctrines that are taught which are not in the Bible. Therefore, people get deceived. What are the critical doctrines or teaching that we need to know clearly? There was a new believer that I knew in the Navy. He began to follow Christ, but his doctrinal foundation was weak, and he was fooled by teaching from Bahai.

DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

Let's look at the verse **2 Timothy 3:16**:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, for rebuke, for correction and training in righteousness.

DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY

1. What are the most critical doctrines that one needs to know?
Suggested list: Deity of Christ; The Triune God; Authority of the Bible; Salvation by Grace; Forgiveness of sins; Return of Christ; The power of presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. Which of these doctrines do you feel like you have a supporting number of verses for?
3. Try to explain a doctrine with supporting verses

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4. What steps would you need to take to strengthen your doctrinal foundation?
5. Which doctrines are harder for you to understand?
6. What steps will you take first?
7. How will you know that you have a conviction about a doctrine?

LIST ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE: