

# 1—The Holy Scriptures

“What We Believe”

Pastor Mike Cooke

“We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of the living God<sup>1</sup>; true, immutable, steadfast, unchangeable<sup>2</sup>, as its author, the Lord Jehovah<sup>3</sup>; that it was written by holy men of old as they were moved upon and inspired by the Holy Spirit<sup>4</sup>; that it is a lighted lamp to guide the feet of a lost world from the depths of sin and sorrow to the heights of righteousness and glory<sup>5</sup>; an unclouded mirror that reveals the face of a crucified Savior<sup>6</sup>; a plumb line to make straight the life of each individual and community<sup>7</sup>; a sharp two-edged sword to convict of sin and evil doing<sup>8</sup>; a strong cord of love and tenderness to draw the penitent to Christ Jesus<sup>9</sup>; a balm of Gilead<sup>10</sup>, inbreathed by the Holy Spirit<sup>11</sup>, that can heal and quicken each drooping heart<sup>12</sup>; the only true ground of Christian fellowship and unity<sup>13</sup>; the loving call of an infinitely loving God<sup>14</sup>; the solemn warning, the distant thunder of the storm of wrath and retribution that shall overtake the unheeding; a sign post that points to Heaven; a danger signal that warns from Hell<sup>15</sup>; the divine, supreme and eternal tribunal by whose standards all men, nations, creeds, and motives shall be tried<sup>16</sup>.”—*Compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson*

1. 1 Peter 1:23  
*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*
2. Psalms 119:89  
*Forever, Yahweh, is your word; settled in the heavens.  
(L-‘owlaam Yahweh d-baar-kaa nitsaab bashaamaayim)*
3. Matthew 24:35  
*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*
4. 2 Peter 1:20-21  
*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
5. Psalms 119:105  
*A lamp for my feet is your word; and a light for my path.  
(Neer-I-ragliy d-baarekaa w-’owr lin-tiybaatiy)*

6. John 5:39-40  
*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*
7. Isaiah 28:17  
*I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line.*
8. Hebrews 4:12-13  
*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
9. Jeremiah 31:3  
*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."*
10. Jeremiah 8:22  
*Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?*
11. 2 Timothy 3:16-17  
*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (theópneustos), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
12. Psalms 119:25  
*My soul clings to the dust; make me alive according to your word.*  
*(Daabqaah le'aapaar napshiy chayeeniy kidbaarekaa)*
13. Acts 17:11  
*Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
14. 1 John 2:5  
*But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.*
15. Isaiah 8:21  
*Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*
16. 2 Timothy 2:15  
*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*