**Building Core Strength**

**Basing Our Core Strength on a Reliable Source[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Psalm 138:3** - *On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.*

3 reasons to base your core strength on the reliability of Scripture

**I. Because of the Significant Number of Original Sources**

A. A word about the author

1. He was a physician

**Colossians 4:14** - *Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.*

2. He was probably a Gentile

cf. “in their own language” in Acts 1:19

cf. **Colossians 4:11** - *…these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.*

3. He was a traveling companion to the apostle Paul on some of his missionary journeys

B. A word about the Author

**2 Peter 1:16-21** - *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty….So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 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 Timothy 3:16-17** - *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

“Biblical inspiration may be defined as God's superintending of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities (and even their writing styles), they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs. Inspiration means that the Holy Spirit of God superintended the human writers in the production of Scripture so that what they wrote was precisely what God wanted written.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

C. Luke readily acknowledges the existence of other sources

**Luke 1:1-2** - *Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us…*

**Philemon 23-24** - *Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.*

**Acts 24:27** - *But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.*

**1 Timothy 3:15** - *but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

**II. Because People like Luke were Meticulous in their Research**

A. Eyewitness accounts

**Luke 1:2** - *just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses…*

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8** - *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*

B. Of servants of the word

**Luke 1:2** - *just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,*

C. He investigated everything carefully from the beginning and wrote it out in consecutive order

**Luke 1:3** - *it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;*

D. This is why God’s Word is powerful enough to change you

**John 17:17** - *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

**Psalm 19:7** - *The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*

**Hebrews 4:12** - *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**Titus 2:10** - *…showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.*

E. This is also why we sometimes have to stand for it

**Jude 3** - *Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*

**III. Because God Wants Us to have the Exact Truth**

**Luke 1:4** - *so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.*

**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.”*

**John 13:17** - *If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ron Rhoads [↑](#footnote-ref-2)