

Open the Word • Discover the Truth • Live the Faith



SCRIPTURE CORNER



FAITH IN FOCUS: The Bible is **inspired by God** but written *by human authors using their language, culture, and style*, **guided by the Holy Spirit**. It contains various literary forms and aims **to reveal God's love and lead to salvation**. Catholics see **Scripture and Tradition** as united, with the Magisterium serving as a faithful interpreter, ensuring the integrity of God's Word.

- **MORE THAN A BOOK?**
- *How Catholics Understand the Bible?*

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” — St. Jerome

Have you ever wondered:

1. **Who actually wrote the Bible?**
2. **What does “inspired by God” really mean?**
3. **Can we trust everything Scripture teaches?**
4. **Why do Catholics speak about both Scripture and Tradition?**

Over the next few weeks, we will explore these questions in **small, simple steps** - so that we do not only **read** the Bible, but come to **know Christ more deeply through it**.



1. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

- ⇒ The Catholic answer may surprise you: **GOD - AND REAL HUMAN AUTHORS.**
- ⇒ God is the ultimate author of Sacred Scripture, but He did not drop a finished Bible out of heaven.
- ⇒ The Holy Spirit inspired **real human authors** who used their own language, culture, personalities, memories, literary styles, and abilities. So the Bible is truly **the Word of God expressed in human words**.
- ⇒ And yet, God was truly working **in them and through them**. Vatican II therefore calls the biblical writers “**true authors**.”

GOD



HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRES



HUMAN AUTHORS WRITE



SACRED SCRIPTURE

One Bible — divine inspiration and genuine human authorship.



2. DOES “INSPIRED” MEAN GOD DICTATED EVERY WORD?



NOT IN THE ORDINARY SENSE.



The biblical writers were not simply divine typewriters.



God worked **in and through them**, making use of their real human abilities. That is why Scripture contains:

1.  **History**
2.  **Poetry and Psalms**
3.  **Prayer**
4.  **Parables**
5.  **Prophecy**
6.  **Wisdom literature**
7.  **Letters**
8.  **Many Other Forms of Expression**

So when Catholics read Scripture, we do not ask only: “**What do these words say?**”
We also ask:

1. **What was the human author trying to communicate?**
2. **What kind of writing am I reading?**
3. **And what does God wish to reveal through these inspired words?**

Vatican II specifically teaches us to pay attention *to the human author’s intention, historical setting, and literary forms.*



3. CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

YES.

- a) Vatican II gives us a beautiful and carefully worded Catholic teaching: Sacred Scripture teaches “**firmly, faithfully and without error**” the truth God wished to have written **for the sake of our salvation.**
- b) That final phrase is important: **FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SALVATION**

- c) The Bible was not written as a modern science textbook, newspaper, or twenty-first-century history manual.

Its deepest purpose is greater: **God wants to reveal Himself and lead us to salvation.**

📖 The Bible tells us **who God is.**

❤️ It tells us **how much God loves us.**

✝️ It leads us ultimately to **Jesus Christ.**

The Bible is not simply information about God. **It is an invitation to encounter Him.**

🌿 4. BIBLE OR TRADITION?

- Sometimes the question is presented like this: *“Which do Catholics follow - the Bible or Tradition?”*
- The Catholic answer is: **BOTH - because they belong together.**
- Catholics love and reverence the Bible as the inspired Word of God. The Catholic difference is this: **We do not separate the Bible from the Church in which it was received, proclaimed, preserved, and handed on.**

Jesus did not first hand the Apostles a completed New Testament before ascending into heaven. He entrusted them with **the Gospel.**

The Apostles:

- 🗣️ **preached it**
- ❤️ **lived it**
- 🙏 **celebrated it**
- 👥 **handed it on**

And, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the saving message was also **committed to writing.**

THE CATHOLIC PICTURE

JESUS CHRIST



THE APOSTLES



SACRED SCRIPTURE



SACRED TRADITION



ONE DEPOSIT OF FAITH



🏛️ MAGISTERIUM SERVES AND INTERPRETS IT

Scripture and Tradition are therefore **not rivals**. Vatican II teaches that both flow from the **same divine wellspring**, are closely united, and move toward the **same goal**.

Vatican II teaches that they flow from the **same divine source**, form one sacred deposit of God's Word, and move toward the same goal.

⚠️ **ONE IMPORTANT CATHOLIC POINT**

- The Pope and bishops do **not** stand above the Word of God.
- The Church teaches exactly the opposite.

The Magisterium is the SERVANT of the Word of God. Its task is to:

- ⇒ 🦻 **listen to it faithfully**
- ⇒ 🛡️ **guard it carefully**
- ⇒ 📖 **interpret it authentically**
- ⇒ 📢 **teach it faithfully**

The *Catechism* states clearly that the Magisterium is “**not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant.**”

🌟 **TAKE THIS HOME**

When you open your Bible, remember:

- ⇒ 📖 **God’s Word comes to us in human language...**
- ⇒ 🕊️ **inspired by the Holy Spirit...**
- ⇒ ❤️ **through which God speaks to His people...**
- ⇒ ✝️ **and leads us to Jesus Christ.**

So perhaps the best question is not only:

“Have I read the Bible?”

but:

“Am I allowing God to speak to me through His Word?”

➡️ **NEXT WEEK**

📖 **73 BOOKS?** Why is the Catholic Bible different from many Protestant Bibles? 46 books in the Old Testament + 27 in the New Testament = 73 books.

- ⇒ Who decided which books belonged in the Bible?
- ⇒ What does the word “**canon**” mean?
- ⇒ And why do *Catholic and Protestant* Old Testaments differ?

See you next week in Scripture Corner! 📖🕊️

Church references for this issue: *Vatican II, Dei Verbum*, nos. 7–13, 21, 25; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 80–86, 101–114, 120, 133.