

Inerrancy and Infallibility

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite restaurant or store? Why do you keep going back there?
- When you want to know or learn something, where or to whom do you go? Why?
- Who is the most truthful person you know? Share a story about him or her.

WORD

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

PSALM 12:6

(Read also **PSALM 12.**)

Inerrancy means something has no error; infallibility means it is not capable of making any error. In Psalm 12, King David describes the words of the Lord as *pure words, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times*. In David's time, to purify silver, the metal ore would be heated in a furnace until it melted. The impurities rose to the top and were skimmed off until there were no more. It is impossible for silver to be purified more than once, and yet the words of God are described as silver purified seven times. God's Word is pure, reliable, and right.

1 God's Word is pure.

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. **PSALM 12:6**

King David describes the words of God as *pure*. When silver is pure, there is nothing that can be added or removed that can make it any more perfect. Purity means it is the only standard for what silver should be. That is what inerrancy means—that the Word of God is pure and perfect, that it has no error. Even more than that, because it is pure, it is the only standard we should follow. Why does Deuteronomy 4:2 say we should not add or remove from God's words?

2 God's Word is right.

¹³⁷*Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your rules.* ¹³⁸*You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.* **PSALM 119:137,138**

God's Word is pure, shaping our views and thoughts, holding us to the standard of His will. More than that, God's word is *right*, infallible—incapable of being in error. King David said, *You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.* As we obey God's Word in any and every circumstance, situation, and timeline, we will see how great God's faithfulness is in our lives. Share a story of God's continued faithfulness in your life.

3 God's Word is reliable.

*17*So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, *18*so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. *19*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain . . . **HEBREWS 6:17-19**

God's Word proclaims the *unchangeable character* of his purpose. The author of Hebrews describes the promises of God as so sure and certain that they are a *strong encouragement* to hold fast to the hope set before us. When we rely on God's Word, we are less easily distracted by thoughts, words, writings, and circumstances that can shake or take away our hope in Christ and what He has done for us. Share a time when you decided to rely on God's Word in a complicated situation. How did God strengthen your hope and faith at this time?

APPLICATION

- Do you have a deep and personal relationship with God that grows as you read His Word? If so, how can you grow in your relationship with Him this week? If not, would you like to begin your relationship with Him today?
- When you read God's Word, do you meditate on and apply it to your everyday circumstances? How can you step out in faith and test the inerrancy and infallibility of His Word this week?
- As you trust in and obey God's Word, how can you demonstrate your faith to your family and friends this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His Word, purified seven times and perfect. Thank Him for giving us His Word, and that we can live by it, no matter what our situation is.
- Ask God that your hope will be strengthened and made steadfast as you continue to meditate upon and apply His Word in your life.
- Pray that as you continue to trust and obey God's Word, His faithfulness will be evident to you and others.

NOTES



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