

Grounded in the Bible

Our unshakable
foundation

Erton C. Köhler

Grounded in the Bible, focused on the mission” is more than a slogan. It is the compass that guides the Adventist movement in this decisive time. While the world drifts on a sea of shifting convictions, the global remnant church can stand firm only when it is anchored to the eternal foundation of God’s Word.

We live in a world of instability. Borders shift, truths are renamed, and values lose their anchors. The rain of doubt pours relentlessly, rivers of post-truth flood billions of screens, and the winds of relativism blow into hurricanes of indifference. In the midst of this avalanche of uncertainty, one question inevitably arises: Is there anything that does not change? Is there a foundation that remains secure?

Jesus answers with absolute clarity. In Matthew 7:24-27 He tells the story of two builders—one wise, the other foolish. Both build. Both face storms. But only one remains standing. What makes the difference? The foundation. One builds on rock, while the other builds on sand. In the original Greek the word for “rock” is *petra*, meaning a solid, deep, immovable mass. That is the foundation of God’s people—the living and eternal Word of God. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, that



Word is “God-breathed,” able to teach, correct, restore, and equip every person for every good work. In other words, Scripture is not just one book among many; it is the ground of eternity.

The house may be beautiful, the design bold, the decor modern—yes, it may look impressive. But if it stands on sand, it will fall. Only those who build on what cannot be moved will stand firm. And in these times there is only one unshakable foundation: the Word of God.

The Word Is Inspired

In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul tells us, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” The original Greek word, *theópneustos*, literally, “God-breathed,” paints a powerful picture. This brings us back to Creation: the same God who breathed life into Adam now breathes truth into the pages of Scripture. The Bible is not just a book written by humans; it is heaven’s breath captured in human language. It is not a dictation of divine power, but the divine breath expressed through human words.

This inspiration is not merely poetic, nor is it partial—it is complete. The Word was formed by the Spirit, revealed by God, written by consecrated individuals, and preserved across the centuries through sacrifice and faith. “God cares for us as intellectual beings, and He has given us His Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway,” writes Ellen White.¹ Even in these days of cultural darkness and ideological tempests, the Word of God still shines brightly, providing clarity and direction.

Today voices multiply across every channel—experts, algorithms, trends—yet none carry the authority of the Eternal. That is why the Bible does not need to be updated; it needs to be applied. It should not be reinterpreted to please culture; it must urgently be proclaimed to transform hearts.

A 2023 report from the organization Open Doors revealed that more than 360 million Christians face severe persecution worldwide, many simply for possessing or sharing a Bible.² In some countries owning Scripture is treated as a crime against the state. In others, surveillance systems alert authorities when biblical texts are accessed online. In some places state cameras are installed inside Christian churches. Notice this: If the Word were irrelevant, it would not cause such fear. The enemy knows its power—and God’s people must know it too.

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The Word Is Sufficient

The next verse, 2 Timothy 3:17, affirms that the Word makes the person of God “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The Greek word *artios* means complete, fully capable, fully prepared. In other words, the Bible is self-sufficient. It requires no

complements, no embellishments. It shapes character, leads to salvation, and sustains mission.

Throughout history, religious movements have shipwrecked by abandoning Scripture. Others turned to human traditions, mystical visions, and theological fashions. Yet biblical faithfulness has always been the axis of true Christianity—and in the end-times it will be no different.

“If men had been willing to receive the truth so plainly stated in the Scriptures concerning the nature of man and the state of the dead, they would see in the claims and manifestations of spiritualism the working of Satan with power and signs and lying wonders,” writes Ellen White.³ Scripture has never been insufficient. The problem is that many have set it aside or twisted it for their own advantage.

Therefore, it must be clearly stated: the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is built not on human strategies but on the Word. We are a people of the Book. And wherever the Bible is central, heaven works miracles beyond imagination.

In Psalm 119:105 the psalmist declares, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” The Hebrew word for “lamp” is *ner*—a small oil lamp used to light one step at a time on dark trails. The Word does not promise to reveal the entire future, but it guarantees light for the next step—and that is enough.

The Word Is Practical

Jesus’ metaphor in Matthew 7 is unmistakable: the difference between ruin and endurance lies in obedience to the Word. It is not enough to know; we must live it. It is not enough to hear; we must put it into practice.

The church will be strengthened not by creative ideas but by obedient faith. Stability comes not from the amount of biblical knowledge, but from submission to it—faithful obedience to God and communion with Him under the shadow of His grace. In this way, when end-time Adventism faces persecution, trials, and testing, only those firmly grounded in the Word will remain steadfast.

In 2017 a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck central Mexico. Many modern buildings collapsed, yet some older structures remained intact. Engineers would explain that the secret is in having a deep, discrete, but solid foundation. The same is true for the church. What sustains a church is not what shines on the surface, but what lies beneath. And there is only one foundation that never fails: the Word of God.

The Bible is not merely a book for theological debates; it is a guide for daily life. It shapes how we treat others, manage resources, respond to crises, and make decisions. Every area of life not grounded in the Bible is vulnerable to collapse.

Is the Bible Still Sufficient for Us?

The essential question is not how many Bibles we own, but whether we are truly grounded in the Word. There is a difference between memorizing verses and depending on the Word. The remnant church will be recognized not merely by professing correct doctrines but by living in covenant with revealed truth.

The people who keep the commandments and hold the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 12:17) are those who will not compromise the authority of the Word. It is our moral code, our prophetic foundation, our missionary manual, and our divine love letter.

When everything around us trembles, it stands. When ideologies change, it stands. When structures fall, it endures. After all, the Bible is the only book that reads the human heart even as it is being read.

Let Us Return to the Word

Today God calls leaders, families, youth, elders, children, teachers, and preachers to return to the foundation. There is only one future for the church—upon the Rock. There is only one power for the mission—the Word.

Will you rebuild your life on Scripture? Will you place every ministry plan, every family step, every financial decision under “Thus says the Lord”? Do you desire the Bible to be your foundation and not merely an ornament?

Then stand up. Reconsecrate yourself. Return to the Word. Pray with the Bible open. Decide with the Bible in mind. Preach with the Bible in your heart. For only those who are grounded in the Bible and focused on the mission will remain standing.

Maranatha! 

¹ Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Aug. 21, 1888, par. 6.

² Open Doors Hong Kong, “World Watch List 2023: Overview,” <https://www.opendoors.org.hk/en-US/news/latest/wwl23-overview/>.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1911), p. 559.

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