

“Can I Be Sure I Have All The Books of The Bible Inspired by God?”

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This concern regards what is commonly referred to as “canonicity.” The shorter term “canon” is transliterated from a Greek noun meaning “rod” or “ruler.” When applied to Biblical writings, the term simply denotes what is “authoritative Scripture.” Hence, if a book is canonical it is inspired of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The question, of course, seeks to understand the method or diagram for canonical books.

Before addressing the heart of the issue, a few warnings must be issued. The first regards the origin of the canon versus the discovery of the canon, a common mistake made by some. Man does not determine what is or is not canonical; he can only discover and recognize it. God alone determines what is canonical. The second warning is issued about faulty methods of canon recognition. The fact is, not every method works. For example, a book is not canonical merely because the book is written in a Bible language. There are many books that fit this bill. However, some faulty methods do not invalid all methods; there are some legitimate tests:

1. “Inspiration” must be one of those tests. Is the book under consideration inspired? Does the book claim inspiration, or can one establish a divine authorship to the book?
2. Next consider the human writer. Is the book written by an apostle or a prophet? If not, was the writer connected to an apostle or prophet in some way?
3. Then there is content consideration. Does the book teach the truth? Does it contradict other prophetic/apostolic books or harmonize with them?
4. Last, there is a test of “genuineness” – a common sense test. Does the book have the ring of an inspired book? Was the book accepted as inspired by God’s people? Can the book be traced back to the time and writer who professes to have written it by inspiration?

While this is brief, this should help. In the meantime, the reader can be confident that all sixty-six books of the Bible are inspired of God. Every book in the Bible is inspired by God, and we have all the books God wanted men to possess for life and godliness.