

## A SUMMARY

**“Scripture must be confirmed by the witness of the Holy Spirit. Thus its authority may be established as certain and it is a wicked falsehood that its credibility depends on the judgement of the church”**

**(Calvin’s Institutes Book 1, chapter 7)**

### **1. Scripture has its authority from God, not from the Church**

Scripture has full authority only where men consider it as God’s living words that came from heaven. And it is a destructive error that the authority of Scripture rests upon the determination of the church. Because this is based upon the absurd notion that the promises of eternal life given in Scripture consist in and solely depend upon human judgment.

### **2. The church is itself grounded upon Scripture**

This statement is based on the truth of Ephesians 2.20, which reads, “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone”. The church is founded upon the teachings of the apostles and prophets.

The claim that the prophetic and the apostolic writings remain in doubt till the church decides upon their authority is refuted by the fact that the acceptance of Scripture had to precede the founding of the church. Scripture exhibits clear evidence of its own truth and needs no external witness.

### **3. Augustine cannot be cited as counter-evidence**

### **4. The witness of the Holy Spirit: stronger than all “proof”**

When we are convinced that God in person speaks in Scripture, we have the highest proof of the credibility of the sacred doctrine. This conviction comes to us not from human reasons, judgements, or guesses, but from the secret testimony of the Spirit. Neither is this based on rational proofs, but on the majesty of God shining forth from Scripture which teaches us of its heavenly origin.

And to support Scripture by disputation is doing things backwards, even though skeptical men demand such proofs to avoid foolish or insane beliefs, for the Spirit’s testimony is more excellent than all reason. The Word of God will not find acceptance in the heart of man until it is sealed or confirmed there by the inner testimony of the Spirit, the same Spirit that spoke through the prophet’s lips.

### **5. Scripture bears its own authentication: autopiston**

Our conviction that in Scripture we hold the unassailable truth rests upon the testimony of the Spirit in our hearts. Only the elect of God experience the singular privilege, and they, not the multitude, are granted the capacity to comprehend the mysteries of God.

***Pastor Paul Goh***