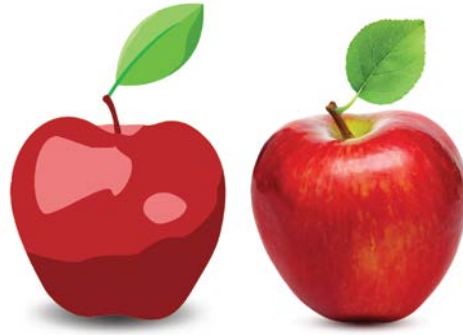


# Belief and Practice

## CASE STUDY 7



LIVING IN THE  
REAL

“I believe the Bible is God’s very words,” Alan said to his friend Ben. “The Bible is inspired by God. We can trust what it says with full confidence.”

“I’m not so sure,” Ben replied. “I see it more as a conglomeration of good writings that God may or may not use to communicate to us. I think God uses things like random thoughts, a newspaper article, or a situation in life to speak to me. I don’t think He wants us to limit His communication to one book.”

“But the Bible says it is inspired,” Alan countered. “That is all the evidence I need. I am convinced that it is exactly as God intended it to be. And I know that God’s message for humanity is in the Bible rather than the newspaper or someone’s random experience.”

“Really?” Ben asked. “Then why don’t you spend more time in the Bible? If it is God’s very words, shouldn’t you be more motivated to find out what it says?”

1. What problem in Alan’s life did Ben expose with his questioning?
2. How might 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17 help Ben see his need to align his practice with his beliefs?
3. What do you believe is true about the origin of the Bible?
4. What does your interaction with the Bible suggest about what you believe about the Bible?
5. What might you need to do to align your beliefs about the Bible with your practice?