

We do not mean when we say that the original MSS of the Bible were inerrant that you could take two or three words or even a complete sentence out of context and what you would gather from that would be God's truth necessarily. You have to study passages in context. Paul said, We are saved by faith without the words of the law. James said, We are not saved by faith alone. Faith without works is dead. At first sight this seems to be a contradiction, but it isn't. When we study the rest of Paul's writings and the rest of the book of James we find that they are each using the words faith in a different meaning. James is using it simply of someone saying that he believes something. Paul is saying it of having real, heartfelt trust.--the kind that brings salvation. If there is ^{works} real trust words will follow, but no one is saved through works. Thus as the words in the original have to be interpreted, we cannot take a few words out by themselves. We have to interpret them in the light of the neighboring words, in the light of the other teachings of the Bible. God gave His words for all generations. It has meaning for people in every age. It has meaning for us today, but we have to learn what that meaning is. The words had to be copied and recopied, and recopied and recopied from == None of the original MSS exist. Then it had to be translated into various languages, and translation is a very difficult task to perform well, at least if it is desired to get the exact meaning of the original.

We do not merely say that we believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, we do not merely mean that the words in the original writings were free from error. We mean that God so protected the writers as they wrote these that no idea that could properly be gathered from them would be an erroneous idea, and we believe ==mean the same thing when we think of the way God has preserved His word through the ages, in the process of copying and copying and transmitting many little changes have come in, but if we compare various copies and examine the teaching in them we do not == we cannot properly reach any conclusions that are erroneous. This applies also to translations. We may take a sentence out of context and get