complete certainty does not come from reason alone, but "from the inward
work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our
hearts."

The fourth section declared that our acceptance of the Bible as
God's Word does not depend upon the authority of any man or church.
This fifth section declares that the testimony of the church may induce
us to a high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. The church does
have its place. The Bible as we have it did not just drop from heaven--
there has been a church on the earth all through the ages. That church
has passed on the Bible from generation to generation. God has used the
efforts of Christian people as a means of calling attention to the truth
of His Word. The testimony of the church through the ages has had
a real importance in the evidence of the Bible, but the authority of the Bible does
not rest upon any man but upon its Author, who is God Himself.

This section declares the validity and importance of various argu-
ments and evidences of the truth of the Bible. It says that by these
facts "it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God".
Despite these statments of the Confession there are people who try to tell us
that we have no common ground for discussion with the unbeliever.
They say in effect : "Don't try to bring various agguments before the
unbeliever to show him that the Bible is true. You have no common
ground with him. All you can do is to tell him that he is over there and
we are over here and he must give up all the bases of his viewpoint and
adopt those of ours." Such an attitude is utterly contrary to that of
the Westminster Confession of Faith. The Confession clearly teaches that there are
many facts by which the Bible "doth abundantly evidence itself to be
the Word of God".

We do not need to take a presupposition or adopt a particular
basis of thought before we can examine the evidence that the Bible
is God's Word. This section of the Westminster Confession lists various
types of evidence and then says that the facts which it has stated "are