

The Inspiration of the Scriptures

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Introduction: Do You Really Believe the Bible to Be the Word of God? (1 Thes. 2:13).

- A. Many people today do not, including the “religious” and those who profess to be Christians.
- B. This is due to a *lack of knowledge* on what it means for the Scriptures to come from the *inspiration* of God.
- C. How we view the Bible and its inspiration is an extremely important matter, for the way we view it will determine how seriously we take heed to what it says.

I. Defining the Words “Scripture” and “Inspired.”

- A. Scripture (i.e. a writing) stands for the law, the word of God (**John 10:34-35**).
 - 1. At the time of Christ, the Scriptures specifically stood for the writings of the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms (**Luke 24:44-45**; cf. **2 Tim. 3:16**).
- B. Inspired (theopneustes) means “God (theo) breathed (pneo)” (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
 - 1. The breath of God is parallel to the word of God (**Ps. 33:6**; cf. **Rev. 4:11**).
 - 2. *God breathed* Scriptures -- Powerful words! (**Rom. 1:16**).

II. The God-Breathed Word of the Prophets.

- A. The prophet is a “mouth” of the Lord.
 - 1. The *actual* words of God are placed in the prophet’s mouth by God, not merely an idea placed in his mind (**Deut. 18:17-19**).
- B. A person was a prophet not because of who he was, but because he was *chosen by God* to speak the word of the Lord (**Amos 7:14-15**).
- C. The prophets spoke not for the people, but *for the Lord*.
 - 1. A prophet *of the people* will preach according to the desires of the people (**Micah 2:11**; cf. **2 Tim. 4:3**).
 - 2. The true prophet of God does not speak from himself or for the people, but for God by the power of the Spirit of the Lord (**Micah 3:8**).

III. The God-Breathed Words of Christ.

- A. Words given by God (**John 7:16-18**).
 - 1. Jesus never made the claim that what He preached was original to Him, but He always pointed to the Father as *the* source of His words.
 - 2. By examining the teaching of Christ, one can determine if it is from God or man (this is true for the entire Bible as well).
- B. The very words Jesus spoke came directly from God (**John 8:28**; **12:48-50**; **14:23-24**; **17:8, 14**).

IV. The Holy Spirit's Work in Inspiration.

A. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth, not by words of His own, but by the words of Christ which came from God (**John 16:13; cf. 14:26**).

B. The apostles spoke the words the Spirit directed them to speak (**Acts 2:1-4**).

1. The Spirit did not give the apostles only the thoughts and then they choose the words.
2. The apostles spoke *the very words* God wanted them to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance.

C. Peter and Paul's testimony shows that what the apostles preached by the Holy Spirit was God's Word.

1. It was by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven that the apostles preached the gospel (**1 Pet. 1:10-12; cf. 5:12**).
2. The apostles never preached their own wisdom or the wisdom of men, but only the *exact words* taught by the Spirit (**1 Cor. 2:6-13; cf. Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:5**).

V. Let Us Recognize the Bible As "Scripture" or the Words of God!

A. Paul believed that what he spoke was the word of God; *Do you?* (**1 Thes 2:13**).

1. Sometimes in the letters Paul wrote, he wrote in a very personal way describing his own struggles, circumstances, needs, and friendships.
 - a. Yet, in doing so, he used *only* the words that God gave him!

2. If you truly believe in the *inspiration* of the Scriptures, you will perform the good works of God in your life.

B. Peter acknowledged Paul's writings as Scripture; *Do you?* (**2 Pet. 3:15-16**).

1. The letters of Paul are not the mere letters of a man, but *Scripture* (i.e., the law of God or God's word).
2. By recognizing the Bible as *Holy Scripture*, we will not twist it, distort it, or shun it, but we will *respect it and follow it carefully*.

C. *The Bible is God's Word*, not the will of men, so let us take heed to what it says (**2 Pet. 1:19-21**).

1. Man's opinions or *personal* interpretations are *not* involved in prophecy or the writing of Scripture.
2. Each Bible writer wrote *exactly* what God wanted them to write, the *exact* words He desired as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: The Inspiration of the Scriptures Gives Us the Confident Assurance that the Bible Is God's Will for Us Today.