



# 2 | 5 Things about the Inspiration of the Bible



*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Tim. 3:16*

## 1. Importance of Inspiration of Scriptures

When Christians say that the Bible (or the Scriptures) is inspired they mean that it was God-breathed and it is the complete expression of Himself alone. The Bible is God's self-revelation through the agency of the Holy Spirit. God's Word is perfect and pure, Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him." Psalm 12:6; 18:30; 19:7-8, 119:140; 2Samuel 22:3. Not only does the Bible claim inspiration for itself, these 66 books, written by 40 men over a period of 2,500 years are in perfect agreement – a feat which would be humanly impossible if the Bible were not inspired. It would stand to reason that men who do not want to retain a knowledge of God (Romans 1: 28) would seek to devise ways to discredit this doctrine of inspiration.

## 2. Verbal Plenary Inspiration

When Christians speak of verbal plenary inspiration they mean that every word of the scripture is inspired (verbal) and every word of the Bible is equally inspired (plenary). Because of these two facts we may say that the Bible is infallible and fully inerrant in its original autographs. This is why readers want to exercise care when choosing a modern translation of the Bible. All scripture, then, is accurately and equally inspired and is infallible as to truth and is final as to divine authority. Matthew 10:19-20. Exodus 4:12; Jeremiah 1:7; Mark 13:11-13; Lu 12:11; 21:14-15, 2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 4:8; 6:10; 2Timothy 4:17.

### 3. Dual Authorship

The Bible is truly God's Word written through the agency of men. The Scriptures are the complete expression of God who chose certain men to write down His awesome Word. He did not give men free range to write what they chose. 2 Peter 1:21 says "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The word moved, in this verse, has the connotation of being borne-along as in being carried. Chafer offers some clarification for this term, "The human authors are carried along to the destination by God, much as a boat will carry its passenger to its ultimate destination. Although passengers on a boat have some human freedoms and can move freely within the boat they surely and inevitably are carried to the destination of the boat itself." This does not give a full explanation, but does shed some light on the subject. There are also examples recorded in the Bible where God spoke directly and those words were recorded by the men.

### 4. What the Bible says about the Word of God

The Word of God attests to its own inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...." The term "inspiration of God" is the Greek word *theopneustos* -meaning that Scripture is God breathed. It's the outworking of God's

Message. The Scriptures also state strongly that certain men were empowered to write the Word of God. Isa 59:21 “As for Me,” says the LORD, this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants, says the LORD, from this time and forevermore.” Psalm. 110:1, Acts 4:25, Matthew 1:22, 2:15, Hebrews 3:7, Psalm 95:7, Hebrews 10:15, Jeremiah 31:33,34, Exodus 4: 10-12, Jeremiah 1:4-9.

## 5. What Christ says about the Bible

When Christ spoke of the Scriptures, He spoke with authority, placing His entire confidence in them. Matthew 5:18 declares that neither “jot nor tittle” (small particulates in the Hebrew language) will be left unfulfilled. Christ engaged the Pharisees on this subject, reminding them of their own belief that the scriptures could not be broken. Christ gave unqualified support to the inspiration of the Old Testament scriptures, always giving honor to them. (Mark 14:49; John 17:12; 12:14; Mark 9:12-13). Speaking of Jesus, Luke says “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” John 5:39 records, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” These verses strike to the heart of the whole issue of inspiration. To deny

the inspiration of scriptures is to deny the authenticity of the words and message of Jesus Christ. Matthew 4,7,10; 11:10; 19:4; 21:13,42:22:29, 26:31,56. Consider the suggestion of the Lord Jesus and search the scriptures for yourself! Begin with John's gospel in the New Testament.

*Main source: The above summary is by S. Wilson. See: Systematic Theology, Vol I, Bibliology and Theology, Chafer, Lewis Sperry, Dallas Theological Seminary.*

## For Additional Consideration

The secular mind has been conditioned against the inspiration of the Bible, most significantly, on the basis that the Bible is full of errors and that its original writings have been lost and obscured through numerous translations. Both of these assumptions are myths.

As to the first, the Bible does not contradict itself, and it contains no errors. Some of these supposed contradictions are the result of not reading all that the Bible says on a subject, of reading into the Bible what the reader think it says, and of imposing our own logic on the Bible.

As to the matter of translations, we are actually grateful for the wide selection of manuscripts and translations that are available. If and

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when we encounter scribal or translation errors, we are able to compare our translations and manuscripts and quickly arrive at an accurate conclusion.

The lists of suggested problems with the Bible is long and tedious, but without merit. Specific answers for specific questions abound. Never be intimidated, there is always an answer available.

While believers should always be able to clarify issues, the Bible itself is its best witness, and, in the end, does not need our defense. It is not unfair to say that 90% or more of its critics are closed minded, having never read more than a few chapters of this wonderful book.

### **Helpful Resources:**

Consider adding a few of these materials to your library shelf:

Various books in the Evidence That Demands a Verdict series by Josh McDowell. (See Amazon)

A wide range of articles for defending the faith provided by Answers in Genesis. <https://answersingenesis.org/>