

# The BIBLE (Part 4)

## Lesson 15- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

**Intro:** Inspiration refers to the way in which God gave us the Bible. Having **revealed** Himself to man, God then had this revelation recorded in written form.

There are a number of possibilities here. For example, God's Word could have come to us via an angelic emissary; or, it could have been carved by divine lightning upon the highest mountains.

...BUT IT WASN'T!!

The Bible itself is very clear as to its origins and its inspiration.

### **A: Biblical statements concerning inspiration.**

The two outstanding scripture references regarding the doctrine of inspiration are:

#### **2 Peter 1:21**

The passage clearly teaches two key aspects of inspiration:

1. Human Penmanship- "...\_\_\_\_\_..."
2. Divine Authorship- "...\_\_\_\_\_."

An analysis of this particular verse makes it clear that God the Holy Spirit was the active source of the scriptures. The Greek word translated "moved" is (pheromenoi), which literally means "borne along." God did not follow the human writers around to correct any of their mistakes, or intervene if necessary, rather, the writers were consciously, and willingly carried along. As God gave the words, they wrote. The same Greek word is translated "driven" in Acts 27:17, where the ship was totally controlled by the wind, at the mercy of the storm.

The inspiration of the Bible is a supernatural miracle. God used approximately 40 human writers of varying occupations and education over a time span of about 1,600 years and gave us a Book with amazing unity.

#### **2 Timothy 3:16**

The important phrase is "...\_\_\_\_\_..." Those who delight in the original languages tell us that the Greek word translated "inspired" is theopneustost) literally meaning "God breathed".

The scripture clearly teaches the divine Authorship of the Bible.

#### **B: Inspiration Defined:**

By inspiration we mean "the Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though allowed to write in their own literary style.

In considering this definition, there is a need to further elaboration, especially in light of the various theories of inspiration found within Bible doubting, Bible rejecting people in our world. There are five terms that we as Bible students, we should be acquainted with when dealing with inspiration.

#### **a. Confluent Inspiration:**

By this we mean that the holy scriptures are a product of two agents, human and divine. This is simply a phenomenon, a mystery, the product of divine human involvement.

Many scriptures affirm that God spoke authoritatively through the words of men.

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Acts 4:25 Who- \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 13:35 He- \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 8:1 *“Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man’s pen concerning Mahershalalhashbaz.”*

Isaiah 30:8 *“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:”*

Illustration: A man picks up a writing instrument and begins writing on a sheet of paper. Having done so, he may then say to another, “I have written these words.” Technically he is incorrect in what he says, for it is the writing instrument that has done the writing. Nevertheless the instrument could not write anything unless it was moved by the hand of the man. Furthermore, the words written down are not those of the instrument but of the man.

Secondly, the physical appearance of the writing will vary according to the instrument selected. A word written with a fine-point pen will look different than the same word written in crayon, or with a broad paint brush, or with a felt-tipped marker. It will also vary according to each writer.

These illustrations hopefully help us understand how God had men write down His words. The Bible is not the words of men, because they wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Yet, like the different kinds of pens, God retained the individual characteristics of these men. He used their style, memories, intuitions, judgments, and their research.

This is the one of the reason that we see different style and contents in the four Gospels, where the life of Christ is portrayed from four perspectives.

#### **b. Verbal Inspiration:**

By this we mean that the very words of scripture are God’s words. Inspiration goes beyond the concepts and the message to the actual words.

1 Corinthians 2:13 *“Which things also we speak, not in the \_\_\_\_\_ which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

In fact, according to Matthew 5:18, inspiration extends even to the letters “\_\_\_\_\_”, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet and the parts of letter “\_\_\_\_\_” the minute accents and diacritical marks of the written Hebrew.

Many scripture passages show the emphasis God places upon the “words” of the Bible.

#### **c. Plenary Inspiration:**

The word “plenary” means: extending to all parts alike. By plenary inspiration we mean \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible is inspired, and every part of the Bible is equally inspired.

#### **d. Inerrant Inspiration:**

The word “inerrant” means” not liable to be proven false or mistaken. Inerrant inspiration means the Bible was written down \_\_\_\_\_ in every detail.

Titus 1:2 *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”*

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What the scripture says, God says through human agents and without error. The proof of this statement is demonstrated by comparing these verses.

Galatians 3:8 *“And the scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, SAYING, In thee shall all nations be blessed.”*

Genesis 12:1, 3 *“Now the LORD had SAID unto Abram ... And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*

The New Testament references state that it is the scripture which spoke, whereas the Old Testament references quoted what the Lord had said.

#### **e. Infallible Inspiration:**

The means the Bible is without error in its teaching. It is incapable of teaching deception.

Psalm 119:160 *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*

The terms infallible and inerrant are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference:

- Inerrant means without error in its recording.
- Infallible means without error in its teaching.

John 17:17 *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

#### **C: Six Facts about the inspired Word of God:**

It is Infallible- \_\_\_\_\_.

It is invariable- \_\_\_\_\_. (Why should we change our message?)

It is inexorable- \_\_\_\_\_.

John 10:35 *“... and the scripture cannot be broken;”*

It is inevitable- \_\_\_\_\_.

It is incomparable- \_\_\_\_\_.

It is invaluable- \_\_\_\_\_.

1. It Convicts- Hebrews 4:12
2. It Converts- Romans 10:17
3. It Corrects- 2 Timothy 3:16
4. It Cleanses- Psalm 119:9, 11
5. It Conveys- Matt. 4:4
6. It Conquers- Ephesians 6:17
7. It Comforts- Thessalonians 4:18