

THE BIBLE: A BOOK YOU CAN TRUST

- A. **My brother** has an old notebook that would be meaningless to almost anyone.
1. The pages are worn. The notes are either hand-written or typed on an old typewriter or both.
 2. But the notebook holds great value to the family, because of whose thoughts & writings it contains.
 3. The notes were written by Granddad Curry Lynch.
 - a. His words give us insight into the kind of man he was & the things he valued in his life.
 - b. You see, the words are meaningful to us because of who wrote them.
- B. **In the same way**, we have a book that is meaningless to many people.
1. Most will pass it by at the book store; or discard it with the items to go to Goodwill.

2. But for us, this book is invaluable because of who wrote it.
 - a. This book contains the words of the Creator, our Provider, our Redeemer, & our Judge.
 - b. The Bible is invaluable to us because of who wrote it, it contains the very words of God.

- C. **Someone may ask**, “How do you know that? How do you know the Bible is God’s word?”
1. For the same reason I believe that notebook belonged to my grandfather.
 - a. I recognize his handwriting.
 - b. I remember that old typewriter.
 - c. He added his name to many of the pages.
 - d. I recall the character of the man, & the writing is consistent his character.
 2. In the same way, the words in the Bible bear the distinctive mark of their Author.

3. How do we know the Bible was written in his hand?
 - a. Unity: It was written over 1500 years by 40 writers in different places & cultures, in 3 languages, & yet the message throughout the Book is the same.
 - b. Prophecy: It contains hundreds of predictions easily verified as having occurred.

Isaiah 46:9-10 – Remember the former things of old, for I am God, & there is no other; *I am God, & there is none like Me*, 10 *Declaring the end from the beginning*, & from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, & I will do all My pleasure,’

- c. Moral standard: It sets before man the highest moral standard, which is consistent with the character of the Holy God who had it written.
- d. Archeology: Archeological discoveries continually confirm its historical facts.
- e. Manuscripts: We have more manuscript evidence for the Bible than for any written works of antiquity (24,000 manuscripts, earliest 25 yrs; Plato – 7, earliest 1200 yrs; Homer’s Iliad – 643, earliest 500 yrs).

1) What could account for such solid evidence of the veracity of the Scripture? *Obviously, the Author wanted His words to endure.*

D. For our purposes we are going to assume that we believe the Bible is the word of God.

1. In view of that fact, “How did God communicate His Word to us?”

2. This is a process the Bible describes as inspiration.

- a. Inspiration is not the same as the Bible being an inspiring book, which is true; it creates much interest, joy & enthusiasm.
- b. But more than that, the Bible is a book inspired BY God.

[Let’s begin with two facts about the Inspiration of the Bible. Quote (2 Tim 3:16).]

I. FACTS ABOUT INSPIRATION

A. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God?” What does that mean?

1. The word “inspiration” (theopneustos) means “God-breathed out.”
 - a. Isn’t that what speaking requires? Try to talk without breathing. Impossible.
 - b. So Paul is telling us that “Scripture” does not exist apart from God’s speaking it out.
2. So then what is “Scripture?” God breathed out Scripture.

2 Tim 3:15 – and *that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Acts 1:16 – Men & brethren, *this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David* concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

2 Pet 3:16 – as also in all *his* [Paul’s] *epistles*, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught & unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also *the rest of the Scriptures*. (Old Testament)

1 Tim 5:18 – *For the Scripture says*, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain” (**Deut 25:4**), and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages (**Luke 10:7**).”

[So when Paul says, “all Scripture [is] inspired of God”, the apostle is speaking of the Old & New Testaments: Bible.]

3. Now let’s take a side road & discuss a topic that is related to “inspiration”, & that is “revelation”.
 - a. The Bible is God’s “revelation” as well as it is His “inspiration” (**1 Cor 2:4-10**).
 - b. The word “revelation” (apokalupto) means *to take off the cover, i.e., disclose*.
 - c. However, some of what is in the Bible didn’t have to be revealed because the writers actually heard & saw the things they were writing about.
 - d. How do we know they didn’t make mistakes? *Memories are sometimes poor*. They didn’t make mistakes in writing about what they heard & saw because they were “inspired” of God.

[So it doesn't matter whether the writers of Scripture were writing something new that God had revealed to them, or whether they were writing from their own experience, their writings contain exactly what God wants us to know; it is "God-breathed out" – *therefore, the message is accurate & thus worthy of our trust.*

The second fact about the Inspiration of the Bible....]

B. "All Scripture inspired of God" **came through men**
(1 Cor 2:4-13; 2 Pet 1:19-21).

1. For as long as God was communicating His word to man, He did so through men.
2. Now these men were not robots, with no will of their own; they were not in trance, with no power to control their thoughts, emotions & actions.
3. In fact, God left these men just as they were when He "breathed out" His word to them.
4. In some cases the writers did much of their own research before they wrote (Luke 1:1-4), other writers gave an "eye witness" account of what they saw (1 John 1:1-2).

5. So the writers of the Bible were not passive, mechanical instruments, they were allowed to exercise their own unique personalities, abilities & vocabularies to communicate God's message.
6. And yet, the process of *inspiration* ensured that what they wrote & the words they used were accurate to accomplish God's purpose.

Many years ago when you took driver's education the car had dual controls. There was a steering wheel, brake & accelerator on both sides of the car. The learner was given freedom to use the controls as long as he was driving the right way. However, the instructor was ultimately in control of the vehicle.

[So God has "breathed out" His message to us through men, according to their natural abilities, & all the while He was ensuring that the message communicated His will – *that is inspiration, according to the Bible.*

Now, let's look at some passages that illustrate that fact.]

II. PASSAGES ABOUT INSPIRATION

- A. The *Person* Of Inspiration (Heb 1:1-2; 4:14) – Jesus, the Son of God.

1. This passage rules out any subsequent revelation that did not come through Christ, like the Quran, the book of Mormon, Catholic traditions, etc.

B. The Promises Of Inspiration (John 14-16) – Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

1. To Remind The Apostles Of What Jesus Said (14:25-26).
2. To Testify [Give Testimony] Of What Jesus Did (15:26-27).
3. To Convict [Convince] The World Of Sin [its sin], of Righteousness [through Jesus Christ] & of Judgment [before the throne of God] (16:7-11).
4. To Guide Them Into All Truth (16:12-15).
 - a. Promises fulfilled (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 7, 14; 2 Pet 1:3; Gal 1:11-12; Jude 3).
 - b. It is no wonder that the early church devoted itself to the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42).

C. The Process Of Inspiration (1 Cor 2:10-13) – Holy Spirit searched the mind of God.

1. To Reveal The Mind Of God (2:10-12).
2. To Receive The Things Of God (2:12).
3. To Speak The Teachings of God (2:13).

(Peter nailed down the process of Inspiration.)

2 Peter 1:16-21 – For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power & coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor & glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 ***And so we have the prophetic word confirmed***, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns & the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but ***holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit***.

[So Jesus, Paul & Peter have explained the inspiration of the Scriptures, & what they taught us about that process is that the men chosen by God to write the Bible were uniquely “moved by the Holy Spirit” – *He put the wind in their sails*. That can be said of no human writings, no matter how greatly they impress us.]

III. IMPLICATIONS ABOUT INSPIRATION

A. We Should Receive It & Welcome It ([1 Thess 2:13](#)).

In the KJV the word “received” is used twice, but in the NKJV the words “received” & “welcomed” are used to depict the two different Greek words in the text.

The first means “to receive with the mind”, & the second means “to take with the hand”.

1. These saints *gladly received* into their hearts the message of the apostles, because they recognized it to be the Word of God.
2. And then they *warmly welcomed* the words as they would a message from someone for whom they had deep affection.
3. Do you remember being off by yourself for the first time, going to the mailbox & filing through the envelopes until you found that special letter from someone you loved?
4. Well, the Word of God is more than a love letter, it also “effectively works” in those who believe it.

B. We Should Live By It ([2 Tim 3:15-16](#)).

1. It will make us “wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
2. It provides all the “teaching, rebuking, correcting & training in righteousness” that we need to be “complete & equipped every good work”.

C. We Should Anticipate Seeing It ([John 12:48](#); [Rom 2:16](#)).

1. I used to have teachers, & you did too, who would say, “Remember this, because you’re going to see it again.” What they meant was that we would see it on the final exam.
2. There are many people in this world who are going to meet God in judgment who have no idea what the standard of judgment will be. – *We don’t have to be unprepared.*

[What we have learned about the inspiration of the Bible should motivate us to grow in our knowledge of it. The Bible is the revelation of the mind of God (Christ), it is a complete Book on how to live life well & to prepare for the biggest day of our lives ([2 Cor 5:10](#); [Rev 20:11-15](#)).]

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48

THE BIBLE: A BOOK YOU CAN TRUST

The Bible is invaluable to us because of who wrote it. How can we know the Bible is God's word? Unity of the message – Prophecies verified (Isa 46:9-10) – Moral standard of highest nature – Archeological confirmation – Manuscript evidence: God wanted His message to endure to the end.

I. FACTS ABOUT INSPIRATION (2 Tim 3:16)

- A. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" - *God-breathed out*.
 - 1. Holy Bible (2 Tim 3:15; Acts 1:16; 2 Pet 3:16; 1 Tim 5:18; cf. Deut 25:4; Luke 10:7).
 - 2. God "revealed" His word (1 Cor 2:4-10), meaning *to take off the cover, disclose*.
 - a. "Revelation" was always governed by "Inspiration".
- B. "All Scripture" came through men (1 Cor 2:4-13; 2 Pet 1:19-21).
 - 1. The process of inspiration ensured accuracy (Luke 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-2).

II. PASSAGES ABOUT INSPIRATION

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- B. We Should Live By It (2 Tim 3:15-16).
- C. We Should Anticipate Seeing It (John 12:48; Rom 2:16; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11-15).