

The Actual Words of God

Did you know that the Bible is the actual words of God? The debate on this topic has been resolved, allowing us to understand that Scripture is not of human origin; it is God's word. We often hear certain statements in Scripture described as David's opinion, Paul's opinion, or Peter's opinion. However, strictly speaking, there is no man's opinion in the Bible. It is entirely God's Word, and no prophecy in Scripture reflects an individual's explanation. Men spoke as the Holy Spirit moved them. **2 Peter 1:20-21:** *"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."* The Bible says more than 400 times, *"Thus says the Lord."* This is how a king's proclamation is delivered. God speaks as the supreme Lord and King, to whom all must submit His word. John Calvin said, *"If we record the Spirit of God, as the soul foundation of truth, we shall neither reject the truth itself, nor despise it wherever it shall appear, unless we wish to dishonor the Spirit of God."* Calvin also said, *"This is a principle that distinguishes our religion from all others, that we know God has spoken to us, and are fully convinced that the prophets did not speak at their own suggestion, but that, being instruments of the Holy Spirit, they only uttered what they have been commissioned from heaven to declare."* The Holy Spirit accompanies the gospel with power to produce assurance and confidence that God's word is accurate. **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5:** *"knowing, brothers and sisters, beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction."* God didn't provide a general outline or some basic ideas and then let the writers phrase them as they wished. God's holy men spoke only as the Holy Spirit guided them, in ways we cannot fully understand. God supervised the human authors of the Bible so that, while using their own writing styles and personalities, they still recorded exactly what God intended. God didn't dictate the Bible, but it was perfectly guided and entirely inspired by Him. **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** *"All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work."* **1 Corinthians 2:13:** *"We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words."* Despite being written by different authors over 15 centuries, the Bible doesn't contradict itself and contains no errors. The authors each present different perspectives, but they all declare the same one true God and the same path of salvation: Jesus Christ. As you read this devotional, pray for God to teach you. Without Christ working through the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand the Word in a way that benefits and transforms us. Look to Christ for grace. Repent of sin. Worship God. Commit to keeping His commandments. And share the truth you have learned with someone else.