

Words to know:

Autographs: Original documents, written by the hand of the author

Inerrant: having no mistakes or errors

Infallible: fully dependable, unable to fail

Inspired: "God breathed"

Plenary: full, entire, complete

What Is Inspiration?

Divine Inspiration: "Using the Bible writers' personalities, vocabularies, backgrounds, education, etc., God superintended their writings to enable them to write down exactly the words He wanted to be in the Bible."

—Dr. Mark Bird

Elements of Biblical Inspiration:

I. Divine **Origin**: God is the Author of all Scripture

(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: (KJV)

II. **Human** Cooperation: The Holy Spirit breathed God's Word into the hearts of human writers.

(2 Peter 1:21) 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. (KJV)

III. The Bible is written in **human language**.

(Jeremiah 1:9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. (KJV)

IV. Plenary inspiration: (Plenary = full, entire, complete)

¹ Lesson outline adapted from Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries

(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: (KJV)

V. Only the Autographs (original document written by the hand of the writers) are inspired.

VI. Because Scripture is inspired by God it contains **no errors**.

God's Word is ***Inerrant***

VII. Only God's Word has final **authority**

Because Scripture is ***inerrant*** and ***inspired*** by God, we know that Scripture is our final authority in all matters of faith and living.

The word inspiration literally means "God-breathed" in the Greek. And because Scripture is breathed out by God, it is true and inerrant. Consider this logic:

God is true.

(Romans 3:4) God forbid: yea, **let God be true**, but every man a liar; as it is written,

God breathed out the Scriptures.

(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: (KJV)

Conclusion: Therefore, the Scriptures are true.

(John 17:17) Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**. (KJV)

Truth is an attribute of God.

(Jeremiah 10:10) But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. (KJV)

(John 1:14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (KJV)

(John 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV)

(John 17:3) And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)

God speaks truthfully

(Numbers 23:19) God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (KJV)

(1 Samuel 15:29) And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. (KJV)

(Titus 1:2) In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (KJV)

(Romans 3:3-4) For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (KJV)

The Holy Spirit is the Agent of Inspiration.

(2 Samuel 23:2-3) The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. (KJV)

God's Words came through the mouths of human Prophets.

(2 Samuel 23:2) The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. (KJV)

(Isaiah 59:21) As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever. (KJV)

(Jeremiah 1:9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. (KJV)

The New Testament Claims Inspiration

Jesus told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would bring to their mind the things God intended to be written about Him. Thus, the writings of the New Testament are inspired by God as Scripture.

(John 14:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)

In 1 Timothy 5:18, the Apostle Paul quotes a passage from Deuteronomy and one from Luke. He calls them scripture. Paul recognized both the Old and New Testament as Scripture.

(1 Timothy 5:18) For the scripture saith,

Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. (Quoted from Deuteronomy 25:4)

And,

The labourer is worthy of his reward. (Quoted from Luke 10:7)

What Jesus had to say about the Bible

Divine Inspiration: He said that David wrote "in the Spirit"

(Matthew 22:43) He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord... (KJV)

Bible cannot be destroyed:

(Matthew 5:17-18) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (KJV)

Infallible:

(John 10:35) ...the scripture cannot be broken; (KJV)

Final Authority:

(Matthew 4:4) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (KJV)

(Matthew 4:7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. (KJV)

(Matthew 4:10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV)

Historic Accuracy:

(Matthew 12:40) For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (KJV)

(Matthew 24:37) But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (KJV)

Inerrancy:

(John 17:17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (KJV)

Christ Centered Unity:

(Luke 24:27) And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. (KJV)

(John 5:39) Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (KJV)

Fulfilled **Prophecy: Proof of Divine Inspiration**

Prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ

Virgin Birth

(Isaiah 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (KJV)

Birthplace: **Bethlehem**

(Micah 5:2) But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (KJV)

Forerunner: John

(Malachi 3:1) Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (KJV)

Ministry of *Miracles*

(Isaiah 35:5-6) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. (KJV)

Sold for 30 pieces of silver

(Zechariah 11:12) And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. (KJV)

Hands and feet pierced

(Psalms 22:16) For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (KJV)

Crucified with Thieves

(Isaiah 53:12) Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (KJV)

Divine *Authority* of the Bible

Our belief in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible will determine our respect for its authority.

Since God breathe the Scripture, it carries the same authority as God Himself.

“The authority of Scripture cannot be separated from the authority of God. Whatever the Bible affirms, God affirms. And what the Bible affirms (or denies), it affirms (or denies) with the very authority of God.” --Ron Rhodes

Assignment: Study these verses this week.

These Old Testament Scripture are quoted in the New Testament and are said to be authored by the Holy Spirit.

The psalmist said (Psalm 95:7)/The Holy Spirit said (Hebrews 3:7)

The psalmist said (Psalm 45:6)/God said (Hebrews 1:8)

The psalmist said (Psalm 102:25,27)/God said (Hebrews 1:10-12)

Isaiah said (Isaiah 7:14)/The Lord spoke by the prophet (Matthew 1:22-23)

Hosea said (Hosea 11:1)/The Lord spoke by the prophet (Matthew 2:1).

Eliphaz's words (Job 5:13)/God's Word (1 Corinthians 3:19)