

Christian Doctrine

The Bible (Part 2)

How We Know God's Word Is God's Word

Inspiration

Inspiration refers to the act of the Spirit of God guiding human authors of the Bible so that their words perfectly recorded God's message without any error. Key Bible verses that give us an understanding of inspiration include:

- [II Timothy 3:16](#) – All Scripture is inspired and given for a purpose: for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction.

Inspired: "God breathed" - the words are from the very breath of God

- [II Peter 1:21](#) - The authors did not write whatever they wanted; they were moved by the Holy Spirit to write what He wanted written.

Moved: "borne along" - just as a raft would be carried along by moving water

- [I Cor. 2:13](#) – The Holy Spirit directed the writers as to the very words to use in the writing of Scripture.

Key Terms: Verbal and Plenary Inspiration

There are two key terms which describe the extent of God's hand in the work of inspiration:

- Verbal: The Holy Spirit guided the authors in the very words they used. This was done without taking away the authors own particular style of writing.
- Plenary: The whole Bible was inspired by God (not just parts) and is therefore exactly how God desires it to be.

The Overall Teaching of Scripture

From the Old Testament, which reveals itself as God's Word ([Gen. 8:15](#); [Ex. 24:3-4](#); [Deut. 9:10](#); [II Sam. 23:2](#); [Jer. 1:7-9](#); [Micah 1:1](#); etc.), through Jesus' teaching ([Matt. 4:4](#); [Luke 24:27, 44](#); [John 10:35](#)) and the other verses we have looked at from the New Testament (above), God makes it clear that the words of Scripture are His very words. Thus, knowing that we have a direct message from God, we should be driven to read His Word and see what He desires to tell us ([II Pet. 3:2](#)).