

Systematic Biblical Truth
God's Word: *The Inspiration of Scripture*

Session 2

Why this is important:

A contemporary Christian (Famous) recording artist/writer:

*“Regarding that song, it came quickly and we dare not talk about the theology of it, in fact, we feel that to dissect the song would be tampering with the **inspiration** of the Holy Spirit who **inspired** the song.”*

What do you think? Was he “inspired”?

- How do we know if God has actually spoken to someone as they claim?
- How can one’s claim of receiving “revelation” be verified?
- Does God actually “speak” to people today?

Part of the confusion over the whole **inspiration** thing is because we use the Latin term for the Greek word **Theopneustos**... we get the word “pneumatic” from it.

Inspiration is the Latin word that means **to breath in...**

Pneustos is the Greek word that means **to breath out...**add *Theo* before it (remember *Theology*?)... it literally means *God breathed out*.

2nd Tim. 3:16 **All scripture is *Theopneustos*.... *God breathed out*...**

I. Presupposition—Pre= before supposition= “the act of supposing” ... *I suppose the Bible is true*.... Suppose is assuming something is true without absolute proof.

We must make one huge supposition for this study to be of any value..... this is it! THE BIBLE IS 100% TRUE AND RELIABLE. Even if you are not totally convinced of that, you need to “presume” it is correct.... WHY?

The reason we are beginning with the doctrine of God’s revelation is because EVERYTHING else we will be studying relies on the integrity of God’s word.

II. God’s revelation

A. The enclosed box illustration [man is inside a box confined to time and space—cannot know what’s outside the box... the supernatural. God had to come into the box for us to know anything about the outside.

1. **Revelation**—The making known what is unknown; Biblically, the unveiling of what has been veiled.

2nd Corinthians 4:3 ***And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.***

2. **Inspiration**—the means by which revelation becomes known; Biblically, the act of the Holy Spirit upon the biblical writers that ensured what they wrote was the word of God.

B. The two ways God revealed Himself to us:

1. **General Revelation**—God’s revealing of Himself in creation. Psalm 19:1 ***The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.***

- a. *The limitations of General Revelation*: It is not complete, it is limited by what sinful man can observe; Does not reveal how fallen humans might gain access or secure reconciliation with God—no salvation offered.

2. **Special Revelation**—God revealed Himself directly and in greater detail. He did so using direct acts, dreams and visions, Christ’ incarnation, and Scripture.

Hebrews 1:1 ***God after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and many ways, in these last days He has spoken to us in His Son.***

- a. *Benefits of special revelation*—clearly shows man how to reconcile with God; salvation; To know how to live a life that will glorify God; To get to know God.

C. Inspiration: Views of inspiration:

- a. *High level of human achievement*—Special, highly intelligent people wrote the Bible. God had nothing to do with it. The writers were simply spiritual geniuses.

Problems: No one would invent the Jesus of the Bible; No one would condemn the entire human race; Why didn’t these highly intelligent writers write anything else?

- b. *Thought inspiration*—God gave certain writers ideas. He didn’t speak to them verbally hence, the words themselves are not from God, simply the ideas.

Problems: How would the writers know if their thoughts were from God? How would they know specifically what they should write? Why on earth would we ever do word studies in the Bible!?

- c. Partial inspiration/revelation—Not all of the Bible was inspired, only the moral instructions. The Bible doesn't have to be accurate in everything, just the right way to live.

Problems: TOO MANY TO COUNT! Why believe the moral and not the spiritual if God is the revealer, what makes the morality reliable and all else not?

- d. Experiential—Not the infallible word of God but you get an experience. As you go through the Bible, you “feel” God as you go through it. The writers found their inspiration within themselves (much like the “inspired” song writer!).

Problems: How can you have a divine experience without a divine book? This is a prominent view today (i.e. The Jesus Seminar—to “demythologize”).

- e. Mechanical Dictation—The writers were told exactly what and how to write. They were basically tape recorders for God.

Problems: Even though God did do this sometimes in the Bible (God gave Moses the 10 commandments word for word) God used the personalities and experiences of the individuals to come through in their writings.

Mind twister: God completely controlled the words that came from each writer as they used their free will and choice! (see pg 76)

- f. The biblical view—In other words, the view that the Bible teaches about itself. God through His Spirit inspired every word penned by the human authors in each of the sixty-six books of the Bible in the original documents (autographs). Inspiration describes the process of divine causation behind the authorship of Scripture.

2nd Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- Over 2500 times in the Old Testament, 40 times in the New Testament refers to scripture being “the word of God”
Isaiah 1:2 ***Listen O heavens and hear O earth, for the Lord speaks!***
- *It is inerrant*—completely true and truthful in all it teaches.
Psalm 119:140 ***Your word is pure.***
- *It is infallible*—It is unfailing in its purpose
2nd Timothy 3:16 (Below)
- *Totally trustworthy*
2nd Timothy 3:16
- *God given*—God is the source of all the words in the original documents.
2nd Timothy 3:16
- *Active*—Alive!
Hebrews 4:12 ***For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***
- *Certain*—One can have complete (100%) confidence in what the Bible claims and says.
Luke 16:17 ***It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to fail.***
- *Powerful*—It is not just words on a page, but there is actual energy and power in the words.
1 Corinthians 1:18 ***For the word of the cross is foolishness to those perishing, but to us who have been saved, it is the power of God.***
- *Cleansing*—It is through God’s word that we can become spiritually clean
Ephesians 5:5:26 (speaking to husbands regarding their wives) ***...having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.***

