

Definition

2 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” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The phrase “inspired by God” is from one Greek word (theopneustos) which means: “divinely breathed in” (Strong’s Concordance #2315). The content of Scripture came from the breath of God. We might say it came out of His mouth.

If “all Scripture is inspired,” what Scriptures can be left out, altered, or ignored?

What benefit is Scripture to us (according to this passage)?

Some want to say the Bible is incomplete. If the inspired Scriptures “equipped for every good work,” what are we missing?

How Did It Work?

Scripture does not tell us everything we would like to know on this subject, but what is seen is significant. 2 Peter 1:20-21 tells us “no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’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.” God’s message came through men. In this sense the Apostle Paul said, God “has shone in our hearts” (the apostles) and they had “this treasure in earthen vessels” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7). The prophets, apostles, and others who were inspired were moved to speak by God.

Relate from the following passages how men were moved by God:

Galatians 1:11-12

1 Peter 1:10-12

Jeremiah 1:7

Mark 12:36

Jesus told the apostles the Holy Spirit (called the Comforter) would aid them by means of inspiration. What is said about inspiration in these passages:

Matthew 10:19-20

John 14:26

John 16:13-15

1 Corinthians 2:10, 12-13

Spoken or Written Word?

The inspired revelation of God came through various means, and this was often written down. God Himself speaks the ten commandments to Moses (Exodus 20:1-17) and writes them on tablets of stone with His finger (Exodus 31:18). The written word carries just as much authority as the spoken, coming from the same divinely inspired source. Write down the key phrase about inspiration from the following passages:

John 5:39

Ephesians 3:1-7

Romans 3:2 and Hebrews 5:12

Jesus Himself bears testimony of the inspiration of Scripture. He quotes the Old Law as fact from God when He is tempted of the devil, three times replying, "it is written" (Matthew 4:1-11). Many times Jesus quotes and references the Scripture as God's revealed truth (as in Matthew 19:4, Matthew 22:29, and Mark 14:49). He bases entire arguments on the use of the very words (John 10:34), tense (Matthew 22:32), or word (Matthew 22:43) used in Scripture. In a similar way the apostle Paul argues from the use of a single letter saying, "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "and to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "and to your seed, " that is, Christ" (Galatians 3:16).

The New Testament writings are inspired, and as such are authoritative for us. How do the following verses teach this truth?

1 Corinthians 2:13

Galatians 1:7-8

1 Thessalonians 2:14

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 12

1 Corinthians 14:37

The apostle Peter places the writings of the apostle Paul in the same category as Scripture when he said, "in all his letters, speaking in them of these things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). The New Testament writings must be seen to be Scripture given to us by God. Remember, "all scripture is inspired by God and is profitable" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).