

## THE 5 PILLARS OF THE CHURCH

# THE WORD OF GOD - THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

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The Bible is the inspired word of God, design for man as the tool in which God communicates to him. The Holy Spirit breathed upon the human vessels the very thoughts and words He wanted written. This word flowed through the human channels involving their emotions, personalities and frames of reference, without violating the originality of the Word.

### THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THE INSPIRED BOOK

- A. The Bible
- B. The Word of God
- C. The Scriptures
- D. The Old and New Testaments

### THE SYMBOLS OF THE INSPIRED BOOK

- 1. Nourishes new Christians
- 2. Refreshes and cleanses
- 3. Provides safety in storms
- 4. Separates the flesh and the spirit
- 5. Smashes evil
- 6. Priceless value
- 7. Cleanses and purges
- 8. Strength-giving food
- 9. Produces life
- 10. Self-revealing
- 11. Meant for daily consumption
- 12. Gives light in the darkness

### THE DEFINITION OF INSPIRATION

*All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).* "Inspiration" means, "God-breathed". Our breath carries our voice. The Holy Spirit carried the Word of God to us. The Holy Spirit caused God's Word to be written through men. How can we be sure that we really know God? The Bible is the test. We must have confidence in the Word.

Revelation - Message  
Inspiration - Method  
Illumination - Meaning

## THE MODE OF INSPIRATION

### False Theories Of Inspiration

1. Natural Inspiration - The view that the Bible was written through human genius. The weakness of this theory is it denies the supernatural inspiration in writing the Bible.
2. Mechanical/Trance Inspiration - The view that the Bible was written solely by God, putting the writers into a trance. The weakness of this theory is it rules out man's conscious involvement.
3. Thought Inspiration - The view that God gave inspired thoughts to the writers but left it up to them to express those in their own words. The Bible contains the Word of God but is not itself God's Word. The weakness of this theory is how can we be sure that the writer expressed it right?
4. Partial Inspiration - The view that only parts of the Bible are the inspired Word of God. The weakness of this theory is how can we be sure what part is inspired?

### Plenary Verbal Inspiration

- a) "Plenary" means "full, complete."
- b) "Verbal" refers to the use of words.

Phrases such as "*God said... thus said the Lord... the Lord spake*" are used around 3800 times in the Bible. The words themselves are "God-breathed."

*But the LORD said to me: 'Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,' says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth'. (Jeremiah 1:7-9, NKJV)*

*For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:3-4, NKJV)*

*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21, NIV)*

The goal of the Bible is reflected in its origin. The goal of the Bible is to bring God and man together. The way the Bible was written was, God used man to communicate with man.

*But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:13-17, NKJV)*

*For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21, NKJV)*

## THE PROOFS OF INSPIRATION

When all of the following proofs for the inspiration of Scripture are put together and then compared to other "sacred writings," we see that the Bible is unique as the inspired Word of God.

- A. The Miracles Of The Bible
  - 1. Moses' message was supported by miracles. (Exodus 7-12)
  - 2. Elijah's message was confirmed by miracles. (2 Kings 1:10-15)
  - 3. Jesus' message was also confirmed by miracles and He instructed His disciples to do the same. (John 5:36-40; 10:37-38)
  - 4. Miracles still can occur to confirm the preaching of the Word. However, the miraculous does not by itself prove the truthfulness of doctrine. (Mark 16:20; Acts 8:5-8; Hebrews 2:3,4)
- B. Prophecy And Fulfilment.
  - 1. Concerning the first coming of Christ. There are 330 prophecies, 150 of which were fulfilled in the six hours Jesus was on the cross. All were specifically fulfilled.
    - The probability of eight out of these 330 prophecies coming to pass is 1 in 1017. This is equivalent to covering the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, one of which has a special mark on it, with only one chance to pick the right one.
    - The probability of all 330 prophecies coming to pass is 1 in 10147. This is equivalent to having only one chance of selecting a particular electron out of all of the electrons in the universe.
  - 2. Isaiah prophesied centuries before that Cyrus would defeat the Babylonians and specifically how he would do it.
  - 3. Fulfilled prophecy is a miracle of knowledge. It bears witness to the knowledge of God and the Bible has never been wrong in its prophecies.
- C. The historical accuracy of the Bible and its texts.
- D. The unity of the Bible. The Bible contains 66 books written by 40 different men written over 1600 years in 3 different languages, without any collaboration, resulting in no contradiction. This would be naturally impossible. Ultimately, the Bible must have been written by only one Author.
- E. The miraculous preservation of the Bible.
  - 1. Few books have lasted 1000 years. No other book has survived what the Bible has endured.
  - 2. The Bible has better manuscript evidence than any other work of ancient literature, even though many rulers throughout history have attempted to destroy the Bible.
- F. The Influence of the Bible. No other book has influenced so many people and cultures than the Bible. No other book has been printed as widely as the Bible. It is always the number one book in sales. It was the first book to be translated from one language to another.

### The Harmony Of Themes Through The Bible

There are streams of truth that run through the Bible beginning in Genesis and having final fulfilment in Revelation:

#### GENESIS

Paradise Lost  
 Satan's Entrance  
 The Curse  
 First Tears  
 Beginning of Conflict  
 Divine Fellowship Broken  
 Old Heavens and Earth

#### REVELATION

Paradise Regained  
 Satan's Doom  
 No More Curse  
 Tears Wiped Away  
 Final Victory  
 Perfect Worship  
 New Heavens and Earth

**G. The Bible Itself Claims Inspiration**

1. For its writers. (John 10:35; Acts 1:16; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:14,15)
2. For the writings. (Exodus 17:14; 34:27; Numbers 33:2; Jeremiah 30:2; Revelation 2:1)
3. For the thoughts and words.  
(Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 24:35; John 3:34; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 3:2)

This fact confronts people with a choice - is the Bible just a valuable book or is it God's Word?

**THE RESULTS OF INSPIRATION (and practical use of the scriptures)**

- A. Genuineness - The books of the Bible were really written by who they say they were and when they say they were.
- B. Credibility - The Bible is entirely truthful about every subject matter it treats.
- C. Canonicity - "Canon," means measuring rod. The books of the Bible have been measured, tested and proven to be the inspired Word of God.
- D. Infallibility - The Bible has no mistakes. It is absolutely right.
- E. Authority - If the Bible is genuine, credible, canonical and infallible, it has absolute authority in our lives. If your experience appears to be contrary to the Bible, believe the Bible rather than your experience.
- F. The Practical Use Of The Inspired Book - The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible writers breaths upon us to illuminate the meaning of those Scriptures to us.

**How Do We Know The Books Of The Bible Are Credible?**

**Old Testament Books:**

1. Christ accepted them.
2. History and archaeology prove them.

**New Testament Books:**

1. The writers were competent eyewitnesses.
2. The writers died for what they believed.
3. The writers harmonise with each other.
4. The writings agree with both history and experience.

*However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love him". These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10, NIV)

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people. (Ephesians 1:18, NIV)*

**1. Read Scripture**

*And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes.*

(Deuteronomy 17:19, NKJV)

*Search from the book of the LORD, and read. Not one of these shall fail. Not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them. (Isaiah 34:16, NKJV)*

*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things, which are written, in it, for the time is near. (Revelation 1:3, NKJV)*

2. Study Scripture - The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39).

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV)*

3. Meditate On Scripture.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8, NKJV)*

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2, NKJ)*

4. Memorise Scripture.

*By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:2, KJV)*

*And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. (Deuteronomy 6:6, KJV)*

5. Sing Scripture.

*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19, KJV)*

## THE APOCRYPHA

The apocryphal books were written during the intertestamental period and were added to the Greek "Septuagint" translation of the Old Testament. They were included in all versions of the Bible but were not considered canonical.

These fourteen books that were added to the Bible as being inspired as "Deuterocanonical" by the Council of Trent in 1546 are:

1. First Esdras.
2. Second Esdras.
3. Tobit.
4. Judith.
5. Additions to the Book of Esther.
6. Wisdom of Solomon.
7. Ecclesiasticus.
8. Baruch.
9. The Song of the Three Holy Children.
10. The History of Susanna.
11. Bell and the Dragon.
12. The Prayer of Manasseh.
13. First Maccabees.
14. Second Maccabees.

### **Why Protestants Reject The Books Of The Apocrypha From The Canon:**

1. It is universally acknowledged that they never had a place in the Hebrew canon.
2. They are never quoted in the New Testament.
3. They are not found in any catalogue of canonical books made during the first four centuries of the church.
4. Divine inspiration and authority is claimed by none of the writers, and is disclaimed by some of them.
5. The books contain many historical, geographical and chronological errors, at times contradicting themselves, history and the rest of the Bible.
6. They teach doctrines and uphold practices, which are contrary to the canonical scripture.