

**INTRODUCTION:** In order for man to please God, he must know God's will. Man had no way of knowing God unless God revealed Himself to man. God's great love for man moved Him to communicate with man and thus man could then know God and please Him. However, to only give man the verbally spoken Word of God was not enough, for man is imperfect and would only mess up God's Word in transmitting it to others. This is where the written Word of God comes in.

God used Holy men of old to write down the exact words as He gave them. Thus, if man forgot what God said or how He said it, he could always go back to the written word and read it again. The perfect communication of the Word of God to man is called INSPIRATION.

DEFINITION: *Inspiration* – “That operation of the Spirit of God which renders a speaker or writer infallible in the communication of truth from God. (God-breathed)

II Timothy 3:16 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God. . .”

II 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.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake . . .”

Revelation 1:19 – “Write the things which thou hast seen. . .”

\*Inspiration is simply the means used by God to accurately transmit, to man, His revelation.

## **I THREE VIEWS OF INSPIRATION**

- A. The “*intuition*” theory (Natural inspiration)  
This theory states that the Bible is only the writings of man due to his own inherent intelligence and goodness. (Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 64:6) This view denies that there is anything supernatural about the Bible and thus that the scriptures are no more inspired than the other writings of man. **THIS IS FALSE!**
  
- B. The “*illumination*” theory  
This theory states that only the writer was inspired and not the very words of the scripture. This would mean that the Bible only *contains* the Word of God. **THIS IS FALSE!** (Matthew 4:4; 24:35)
  
- C. The “*dictation*” theory  
This theory states that every word was dictated exactly to the writer by God even using the writer's personality in the writing. **THIS IS TRUE!** II Timothy 3:16 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is **PROFITABLE**. . .”  
Matthew 4:4 – “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every **WORD**. . .”  
I Corinthians 2:13 – “Not in words. . .”

**NOTE:** We believe in the verbal, plenary, inspiration of the scriptures.  
VERBAL – “*every word*”  
PLENARY – “*complete*”  
We believe that every word is completely inspired of God.

## **II PROOFS OF THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE**

- A. Proofs from without of the inspiration of the Bible
- 1) The Bible’s place in literature – no greater prose or poetry was ever written than is found in the Bible.
  - 2) Historical testimony – every event of history recorded in the Bible has been proven 100% correct.
  - 3) Its preservation – books are like men – dying creatures. A very small per cent of books ever survive more than twenty years and an even smaller per cent survive 100 years. For over 2,000 years, the Bible has been persecuted, hated, and burned. No other book has been so intensely loved by some and yet so bitterly hated by others. The very fact that the Bible still exists today is an indication that, like its Author, it is indestructible.
  - 4) Its adaptability – The Bible is the Book for young and old, rich and poor, lofty and lowly, wise and unwise. There is no point in human experience at which this Book does not touch us. No book written by man could do this.
  - 5) Its transforming power – the greatest test of any book is the change it makes in those who read it. No other book has changed lives, directed kings, and directed the course of nations like the Bible.
- B. Proofs from within of the inspiration of the Bible
- 1) The Bible claims to be inspired – the Bible claims for Itself to be the Word of God. (Hosea 1:1; Joel 1:1; Jonah 1:1; Romans 3:2)
  - 2) The completeness of the Bible – the Bible was completed more than 1900 years ago while most of the world was still uncivilized, yet even today we know no more about the origin of life, the nature of the soul, the problems of life, or the destiny of man than men did who had the Bible 1900 years ago.
  - 3) The character of its teaching – the teachings of the Bible are far superior to all the moral or ethical systems of man.
  - 4) The honesty of the Bible – the Bible records the good and the bad deeds of men without favoritism.
  - 5) The unity of the Bible – the Bible is composed of 66 books written by at least 40 different authors in 3 different

languages over a period of 1600 years. Many of these authors were brought up in different countries, under different circumstances, yet all agree with each other in every point in the scripture. The Bible is the miracle Book of all the ages. It is the inspired Word of God.