

Meet the Holy Spirit #3

The Holy Spirit and Inspiration of Scripture

Introduction:

1. So far we have seen that the Holy Spirit is a person
2. He is not just a person, He is divine, the 3rd member of the trinity
3. Tonight we look at the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the inspiration of the Bible
4. Of all the ministries of the Holy Spirit, few are of more immediate concern than His work of inspiring the holy Scriptures
 - a. It is a matter of tremendous import whether the Bible was produced supernaturally or whether it is just a collection of the writings of men
 - b. If the Scriptures are merely the writings of men then we can expect them to contain the errors that are common in any human work
 - c. If the Scriptures are not inspired, then they are not authoritative and we have no basis for our doctrine
5. In order to know God, He had to reveal Himself to man
 - a. We can know some things about God by observing His creation
 1. His power
 2. His order
 3. His wisdom
 - b. There are many things that nature cannot reveal about God
 1. The love of God
 2. The plan of salvation
 3. The nature of the church
 4. Second coming of Christ
 5. The existence of heaven and hell
 - c. Everything stands or falls on the truthfulness of the Bible
 1. If the Bible is not inspired, then it falls to the low level of human production
 2. If it isn't inspired, it cannot make one wise unto salvation
 3. If it is inspired, the Bible came from God – if it is not inspired, the Bible is a fraud
6. Since the Bible is the inspired Word of God, it is superior to...
 - a. Tradition – Matt 15:3 **But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**
 - b. Science – 1 Tim 6:20 **O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:**
 - c. Fables – 2 Tim 4:4 **And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

- d. The occult – Isa 8:19 *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
- e. Opinion – Prov 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

I. Different Theories of Inspiration

A. Natural or Ordinary Inspiration

1. The Bible is inspired
2. Like a song writer may be inspired
3. Like a poet may be inspired

B. Limited or Partial Inspiration

1. This theory says that parts of the Bible are inspired
2. The words Jesus said are inspired, but Jonah is not

C. Degrees of Inspiration

1. All of the Bible is inspired, but some is more inspired than others

D. Thought Inspiration

1. God inspired the thoughts
2. The Bible writers used their own words

E. Mechanical Inspiration

1. God used the Bible writers like robots
2. God dictated the words and the writers mechanically wrote
3. Their personalities did not come through

F. Verbal Plenary Inspiration

1. Verbal = words → God inspired the words
2. Plenary = complete → God inspired all the Bible
3. Inspiration = God breathed
4. “God so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that without excluding their human intelligence, their individually, their literary style, their personal feelings, or any other human factor, His own complete and coherent message to man was recorded in perfect accuracy, the very words of Scripture bearing the authority of divine authorship. Nothing less than a plenary and verbal inspiration will satisfy the demands of the Scriptures themselves and give to faith the confidence in the Word of God which is essential to faith and life.” – “The Holy Spirit – A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.” – John F. Walvoord, Zondervan Publishing House, 1991, Grand Rapids, Mich. p. 58

II. Inspiration of the OT

A. OT Writers Claimed Inspiration

1. Moses – Deut 31:9, 24
9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. 24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,
2. David – 2Sam 23:1-2
1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.
3. Solomon – 1 Ki 6:11
11 And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,
4. Isaiah – Isa 59:21
21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever. Jeremiah - Jer 2:1
5. Ezekiel – Ezek 2:2
2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.
6. Daniel – Dan 9:20, 22
20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.
7. Jeremiah - Jer 1:9
9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

B. Jesus Endorsed the OT

1. Matt 19:4 – Jesus believed in Adam and Eve
4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,
2. Matt 12:10 – Jesus referred to Jonah
10 And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

3. Matt 24:37-39 – Jesus referred to the flood
37 But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **38** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **39** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
4. Matt 10:15 - Jesus referred to Sodom
15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

C. In the NT, OT Passages are Said to be Inspired by the HS

1. Jesus quoted a Psalm and said that David by the Spirit called Jesus Messiah
 Mt 22:43 He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,
2. The Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David
 Ac 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.
3. Hebrews ascribes Ps 96 to the Holy Spirit
 Heb 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice

III. Inspiration of the NT

A. NT Writers Did Not Spend Much Time Claiming Holy Spirit Leadership

1. The apostles were generally known to the churches and they did not have to express these claims often
2. The people saw the miracles and these spoke for themselves
3. Christ promised the Holy Spirit to guide his disciples
4. 1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
5. Peter put the writings of the apostles in the same class as the "holy prophets" – 2 Pet 3:2
2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:
6. Paul put Luke on the same level as the book of Deut calling them both "scripture" – 1 Tim 5:18
18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

B. NT Claims Inspiration for the Bible as a Whole

1. 2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 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.
 - a) *We have a more sure word of prophecy*
 - (1) More sure than the many claimed revelations
 - (2) More sure than the special gifts of wisdom and knowledge claimed today
 - b) *Here we see that the Bible is not of human production*
 - c) *Bible writers were moved (carried) by the Spirit*
 - d) *The Holy Spirit carried the Bible writers just like the friends of the paralyzed man carried him on a stretcher and let him down through the roof*
 - e) *This is the same word used when the Apostle Paul was aboard ship during the storm and the ship was caught up in the storm and driven by the wind*
2. 2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - a) *Inspired = God breathed*
 - b) *theopneustos*

C. Since the Holy Spirit Inspired the Bible – He Can Help Us Understand It

1. He can remind us and teach us – Jn 14:26
26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
2. He can guide us into all truth – Jn 16:13
13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
3. We do well to pray for His help when we approach His Word – Ps 119:18
18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
4. There needs to be motivation on our part