

Everything You Need to Know

A Systematic Study of God

The Inspiration of the Bible

God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings.¹

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

- Key Word: _____
 - a. Refers to the entire Old Testament – Luke 24:45; John 10:35
 - b. Refers to a particular Old Testament passage – Luke 4:21
 - c. Refers to a particular New Testament passage – 1 Timothy 5:18
 - d. Refers to a larger portion of the New Testament – 2 Peter 3:16
- Key Word: _____

This means, therefore, that Scripture is, along with the rest of creation, the product of God's creative power and, therefore, that *theopneustos*—God-breathed—is simply another way of saying the same. Scripture is not simply God-animated; it is God-produced.²

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Key Word: _____

It is not to be confounded with guiding, or directing, or controlling, or even leading in the full sense of that word. It goes beyond all such terms, in assigning the effect

¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 81.

² Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology of Biblical Christianity: Prolegomena and the Doctrines of Scripture, God, and Angels*, vol. 1 (Allen Park, MI: Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009), 83.

produced specifically to the active agent. What is 'borne' is taken up by the 'bearer,' and conveyed by the 'bearer's' goal, not its own. The men who spoke from God are here declared, therefore, to have been taken up by the Holy Spirit and brought by His power to the goal of His choosing.³

1 Corinthians 2:13

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

- Key Word: _____

Verbal, Plenary Inspiration

By *verbal* inspiration is meant that, in the original writings, the Spirit guided in the choice of the words used. However, the human authorship was respected to the extent that the writers' characteristics are preserved and their style and vocabulary are employed, but without the intrusion of error.

By *plenary* inspiration is meant that the accuracy which verbal inspiration secures, is extended to every portion of the Bible so that it is in all its parts both *infallible* as to truth and *final* as to divine authority. This, as has been stated, is the traditional doctrine of the church and that set forth by Christ and the apostles. This teaching preserves the dual authorship in a perfect balance, ascribing to each that consideration which is accorded it in the Bible.⁴

Not...

1. Mechanical (or Dictation) Theory
2. Partial Inspiration
3. Degrees of Inspiration
4. Inspired Concepts
5. Natural Inspiration
6. Mystical Inspiration

³ B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. (Philadelphia: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1948), 131.

⁴ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 71.