

Divine Inspiration

Galatians 1:11-17

What Is Inspiration?

Greek word (theopneustos) translated "inspired of God" - **2Timothy 3:16**

"divinely breathed in:--given by inspiration of God." Strong's

"a divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation" Webster

"a supernatural influence exerted on teachers of God by the Holy Spirit which enable them to teach, by speaking or writing, exactly what God wanted taught."

Moved by the Spirit - **1Corinthians 2:13; 2Peter 1:20-21**

Individual 'style' is evident, yet Spirit controlled the message

J.W. McGarvey gives illustration to show how inspired writers were under complete control of Spirit of God, while also, maintaining own diction and characteristics. *"It would be nearer the truth to compare the whole work of the Spirit to that of driving a well trained horse. You draw the lines to the right or the left as you see the horse need guidance; you check him when he would go too fast, and urge him forward when he would go too slow; but he usually keeps the road and maintains the desired gait and speed of his own accord; still your hand is ever on the lines, and its pressure on the bit is constantly felt, so that you are controlling the horse's movements when he is going very much of his own will. Indeed, the horse is all the time going very much of his own will, and yet he is never without the control of the driver."*

Inspired writers did not err in historical facts or moral principles. Teachings are true and infallible.

Inspiration And Revelation

All revelation writings are inspired, but not all inspired writings were revelation

Revelation makes known truths & facts not previously known

Inspiration ensures accurate recording of revelation and writer's firsthand observation

God revealed creation to Moses, and by inspiring his writing, enabled Moses to accurately record things learned by revelation - **Exodus 4:10-12**

Other things Moses knew by personal experience - **Numbers 33:2**

God, by inspiration, guided him in writing so that he truthfully recorded what he had observed.

Jesus promised Spirit to Apostles - **John 16:12-15; 1John 1:1-4**

Reminded of what had seen & heard. Revealed more

Inspired Old Testament

Over 3,800 times OT writers use expressions as "the Lord said"

Jehovah spoke to Moses - **Exodus 4:12**

David - **2Samuel 23:2**

Jeremiah - **Jeremiah 1:9; 30:1-2; 25:12-13; Daniel 9:2**

Paul asserts the inspiration of OT - **2Timothy 3:16-17**

Jesus speaks of inspiration of OT - **Matthew 22:43-44**

Inspired New Testament

Scripture refers to divinely inspired writings.

Peter speaks of Paul's epistles - **2Peter 3:16**

Paul - **1Timothy 5:18; Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 10:7**

Jesus promised inspiration to the apostles - **Matthew 10:19-20; John 14:26**

He would teach them all things (revelation) Bring all things to their remembrance (inspiration).

Their messages are word of God - **1Thessalonians 2:13; 2Peter 1:16-21; 3:1-2; Galatians 1:11-12**

Still Men

Not sinless - **Galatians 2:11-14; 1Corinthians 9:27**

Not perfect knowledge - **1Peter 1:10-12; Daniel 7:15**

Purpose Fulfilled

Deliver complete message - **John 16:13; Jude 3; 1Corinthians 13:9-10**

Message through Jesus saves - **Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-4**