

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2Timothy 3:16

As The Spirit Gave Utterance

Bobby Graham

Store In My Heart

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith. HCSB

Written by Paul about 57 AD, Romans systematically proves the fact stated in these verses. The message of Christ is God's power to save all mankind.

Because of sin, man is in need of the justification that can only be found through obedient faith. Paul shows how it was obedient faith that allowed Abraham and Israel to gain justification. He then points to the same need among men today. He is especially critical of his Jewish kinsmen who are not submitting to the gospel in faith. We need such obedient faith in our life every day.

The Spirit guided the apostles in their preaching by providing the very words they spoke.

Jesus had prepared the apostles for their work and left them to return to heaven. On this next Pentecost, He dispatched from heaven the Spirit of truth, as promised (**Jhn. 16:7-8**). It was the Spirit, working in the twelve apostles, Who would convict the world. What a work He then undertook.

Such a work required the presence of the Spirit, not merely the men chosen by Christ for preaching. They were not equal to the task, unless the Spirit guided them. When they spoke, it was the Spirit speaking through them, because the Spirit would convict the world. It should be no surprise that they "spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance" on Pentecost, that their declarations were Spirit-given.

Another aspect of their utterances that we stress is the languages used on this occasion. They spoke in languages of the listeners. To make this clear, Luke informed us of those countries/languages present in the gathering in **Acts 2:9-11**. Still "*every man heard them speaking in his own language*" (**2:6**). The miracle was that their speaking languages that they never had learned. Words were the vehicle of thought on this occasion; thus the Spirit guided them in the very words to be spoken. What we have here is a specific case of verbal inspiration, though it was not restricted to this occasion. Let us study the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures.

What Is Inspiration? -- Theopneustos is used by the Holy Spirit in **2Tim. 3:16** to describe the production of the Scriptures. Most experts tell us that the word does not mean "inspired of God," in the sense of His breathing into the Scriptures. Instead it means they were breathed out (expired) by God, being "God-breathed," the product of His creative breath, His almighty power. The word does not indicate God's giving the Scriptures certain vital qualities by His breathing such into them; such a doctrine finds no foundation in this passage.

"The Biblical writers do not conceive of the Scriptures as a human product breathed into by the divine Spirit, and thus heightened in its qualities or endowed with new qualities; but as a divine product produced through the instrumentality of men. They do not conceive of these men, by whose instrumentality Scripture is produced, as working upon their own initiative, though energized by God to greater effort and higher achievement, but as moved by the divine initiative and borne by the irresistible of the Spirit of God



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For Our Information

Time Falls Back November 2nd.

Vickie McNeas continues to deal with back pain. Her son is back in the hospital with pneumonia.

Bill & Joyce Venable are out of town.

The Keislers & Jacksons are out of the country. They should return near the end of next week.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

along ways of His choosing to ends of His appointment" (The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, Warfield 153).

Accordingly, it is significant that various biblical writers said their words came from the Lord. David spoke by the Spirit (**Mk. 12:36**; see **Acts 1:16**; **2Sam. 23:2**). Three thousand and eight times the Old Testament claims to be God's Word. Moses wrote all the words of the Lord in **Exo. 24:4**. "Thus says the Lord" or a similar expression appears 120 times in Isaiah, 430 times in Jeremiah, 329 times in Ezekiel, and 53 times in Zechariah. Jesus declared that the Scripture cannot be broken in **Jhn. 10:35**, meaning that it cannot be annulled or its authority denied because it is from God. So closely is God identified with His Word that often "God" is exchanged with "scripture" and visa versa (the reader is left to explore this exchange for himself).

Explaining the origin of Scripture, not the means of explaining or understanding it, Peter affirmed: "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man; but men spoke from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (**2Pet. 1:20**, ASV). Notice that Peter said it was not by man's will that Scripture originated effectively eliminating the noetic/noematic (thought, idea) kind of inspiration. If God had supplied only the thought, leaving to man to fill out with his own words, it would have ended up being by man's will. Observe also that the Spirit of God bore the prophets, moving them to the ends that He appointed and along ways that He chose.

Inspiration could not have been partial, limited to the ideas, in view of man's incapacity even to understand the prophecy that God gave him. Peter said the prophets did not understand the full import of their prophecies (**1Pet. 1:10-11**); and Peter himself failed to understand the God given prophecy concerning the inclusion of Gentiles (**Acts 2:39**), as we know of his initial refusal to go to teach Cornelius in **Acts 10**. How could they have filled out the God given idea with their own words when they did not even understand the part that God gave? You see, friend, inspiration did not cover a man's personal understanding or his personal conduct in response to the revelation. Not only did Peter not comprehend what he taught by inspiration in **Acts 2**, but he also did not act in keeping with it when he was hypocritical in **Gal. 2:13**. (**1Cor. 2:3-5**). Inspiration did not depend on human effort to fill out what God had not originally said. If it had, then the faith of the early Christians would have rested in the wisdom of men.

Verbal Inspiration Affirmed And Demonstrated:

1. Every word is important: -- **Deut. 8:3**; **Matt. 4:4**.
2. Jesus said even the smallest part of a word (jot or tittle) was significant: -- **Matt. 5:18**.
3. Jesus' argument against the Sadducees' materialistic idea of the human being's nature depended on God's use of "am" (present tense of the verb) from **Exo. 3**; **Matt. 22:31-32**.
4. Paul's explanation of Jesus as the seed of Abraham rested on a word (singular noun) for its correctness, **Gal. 3:16**.

*"But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? even so the things of God none knoweth, save the Spirit of God. But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words" (**1Cor. 2:10-13**, ASV).*



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!