

Session 2: Why do We Believe that Every Word of Scripture is God Breathed?

Part 1: What did we learn last week and how does it relate to the above question?

Part 2: What are some of the key passages that articulate the nature of scripture?

- **2 Timothy 3:15-16**
- **2 Peter 1:12-21**
- **2 Samuel 23:1**

Part 3: What is Scripture?

- **The term is used over 50 times to describe something that is assumed to be clearly defined to the reader.**
- **Four terms used in the New Testament:**
 - **λόγος: Spoken word from God: Mark 2:2**
 - **ῥῆμα: Spoken word from God: Matthew 4:4**
 - **γράμμα: Written word of God: 2 Timothy 3:15**
 - **γραφῆ: Written word of God: 2 Timothy 3:16**
- **The difference between the written and spoken word: Matthew 4:4**
 - **γράφω:** God's written word in the perfect tense
 - **ῥῆμα:** God's spoken word in the present tense
- **Three logical conclusions about the nature of scripture:**
 - If God is the source, whether it is written or spoken, it bears His full authority.
 - God's word was always communicated to your average person through a prophet.
 - Though spoken and written communication from God both bear His full authority, written communication had a superior quality because it can be preserved for future reference.

Part 4: Who is the ultimate source of the scripture? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

- **Caution:** Do not allow the modern usage of "inspiration" to confuse your understanding of the concept.
 - **A modern definition Google:** "The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative..."
- **Better:** How the term was used a few hundred years ago.

- **Webster 1828:** "The infusion of ideas into the mind by the Holy Spirit; the conveying into the minds of men...by extraordinary or supernatural influence; or the communication of the divine will to the understanding by suggestions or impressions on the mind, which leave no room to doubt the reality of their supernatural origin..."
- **Best:** Examine the statement in the original language.
 - **Πᾶσα:** Every...
 - **γραφή:** Written word of scripture...
 - **θεόπνευστος:** God breathed...
- **Simple definition:** Every word of scripture is breathed out by God.
 - Every word, down to the tense that was used.
 - Every word, down to the specific construction of phrases, even those which are ambiguous.
 - Every word, down to the word choice when a synonym could have been used.
 - Not some of the words.
 - Not just the thoughts or doctrines.
 - Not the authors.
 - Not those who are copying or translating the scriptures.
 - Not those who are preaching and teaching the scriptures.

Part 5: How did the Holy Spirit give us the scriptures?

- **OT Explanation: 2 Samuel 23:1**
 - **"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue..."** God spoke through a willing human instrument who met the criteria we find in scripture for prophets.
 - **The source of the words is God.**
 - **The instrument that He used was a prophet.**
 - **Question: what was a prophet?**
 - **A chosen vessel whose ministry had been validated by God through miraculous signs: Deuteronomy 18:20-22**
 - **A chosen vessel whose message would be consistent with previous prophetic communication: Deuteronomy 13:1-5**
 - **Summary:** The message reflected both the source God, and the personality of the instrument, David, leaving the exact words framed in the exact way that God wanted them shaped to communicate what He wanted us to know.
- **NT Explanation: 2 Peter 1:12-21**

- **Peter was fully aware of what he was doing when he spoke and wrote as a prophet, and he wanted to leave a permanent record of God's word for these people: 1:12-15**
- **Peter wrote from the perspective of an eyewitness, which was part of the criteria that made him qualified to be an apostle: 1:16**
- **The scriptures are more trustworthy than the eyewitness accounts of several individuals: 1:18-19**
- **It is more sure, because it is not ultimately based on their recall, observation skills, or interpretation of what they saw: 1:20**
- **It is more sure, because its presence was not ultimately motivated by the internal desires of the instruments God used: 1:21**
- **Summary:** The message reflected both the source God, and the personality of the instrument, Peter, leaving the exact words framed in the exact way that God wanted them shaped to communicate what He wanted us to know.
- **Question: What was an apostle:**
 - **Acts 1:15-25**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:1-9**
 - **2 Corinthians 12:12**
 - They knew Christ personally.
 - They were personally called by Christ to an official capacity.
 - They were representing Christ and was also bearing Christ's authority.
 - Their ministry was verified by signs and wonders.
 - The early church recognized them.

Part 6: Concluding Thoughts

- The scriptures are God's word, not just the thoughts or the doctrines, but the very words in the original languages.
- God used prophets and apostles to give us His word and they were fully aware that they were writing God's word when they wrote scripture.
- God's word is more trustworthy than the recall and comparison of eyewitnesses because it finds its ultimate source in God.
- Though God's spoken and written word both bare His full authority, His written word had a superior quality because it has been preserved for future generation.