

Are God's Words His Words? Divine Inspiration

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Summary of What We Have Learned:

1. The Bible (Scripture) is God's Word
2. God spoke.
3. Presuppositions play a role in all belief
4. Verbal and Written Transmission
5. Errors, authorship, and miracles
6. Necessity, authority, self-authentication
7. All (now) filtered through human identity

“The Holy Bible was written by men *divinely inspired* and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.”

- Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Article 1: The Scriptures.
Emphasis mine.

Definition of Inspiration:

“...a divine act that creates an identity between a divine word and a human word.”(1)

(1) John Frame, *Doctrine of the Word of God* (P&R Publishings: Phillipsburg, PA, 2010), 140.

2 Timothy 3:16 & 2 Peter 1:19-21

Two Questions:

1. Who authored Scripture?
2. How did the process work?

What We Don't Believe Regarding Inspiration:

1. Intuition (clever or well thought- philosophy)
2. Illumination (Spirit controlled person)
3. Dynamic (God gave good ideas)
4. Dictation (like a court stenographer)

What We DO Believe Regarding Inspiration:

> *Verbal Plenary Inspiration.*

1. **Verbal** - All of the actual words of scripture, not just the ideas alone, are God's Words
2. **Plenary** - superintended by God while the authors wrote the Words down

What We DO Believe Regarding Inspiration:

1. Intuition (Too much human control)
2. Illumination (Zero human contribution)
3. Dynamic (God is less involved)
4. Dictation (Sort of, but not quite... Rom. 16:22)

Take Luke for Example:

1. Luke is a physician, a historian, and pays close attention to detail (Luke 1:1-4) and he knows Paul (Acts)

2. God uses these unique elements, skills, and attributes, and (key!) friendships of Luke to give us his gospel account and Acts

In Other Words:

3. God uses the unique context, writing style, and situation to communicate His words to the authors.

4. Yet, the whole process is controlled and superintended by God, but without ruining the human author

Looking back to Paul:

> Galatians 1:1-12

Notice:

1. Paul says the inspiration is from God directly
2. Yet Paul is delivering that Word as Paul
3. Notice, also, that it is gospel oriented

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