

Theology 1
The Inspiration of Scripture
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*By the inspiration of Scripture we mean that **supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit** upon the Scripture writers which rendered their writings an accurate record of the revelation or which resulted in what they wrote actually being **the Word of God**.*

Inspiration: Preservation of the Revelation

- Since God does not repeat his revelation for each person, there has to be some way to preserve it. Something more than oral retelling is needed.
- Inspiration relates more to the relaying of truth from the first recipients to others persons. Thus, **revelation** might be thought of as a *vertical* action, and **inspiration** a *horizontal* matter.

What the Bible Says About Inspiration

- Inspired writers – “No prophecy of Scripture is of any private origin, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**” (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- Inspired writing – “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Theories of Inspiration

1. The Intuition Theory – no supernatural phenomenon involved, purely natural
2. The Illumination Theory – God only acted to give supernatural insight
3. The Dynamic Theory – divine and human elements were involved, God directed the thoughts and concepts of the writer; a little more specific than illumination theory
4. The Verbal Theory – not only did God inspire the thoughts and concepts of the writer, He also inspired the selection of words used to convey His message without removing each writer’s personality from the text – **preservation through personality**
5. The Dictation Theory – the writer of Scripture acted as a “stenographer,” simply recording every word as God dictated to him. This view doesn’t seem to adequately explain the uniqueness of Paul’s writing from those of James, Peter, John, Luke, etc.

Developing a Biblical Theology of Inspiration

- Most evangelicals would ascribe to what is called **the “verbal plenary” inspiration of Scripture**.
 - Verbal – Inspiration extends to the choice of words
 - Plenary – all; the sum total of Scripture
 - The whole canon of Scripture (OT & NT) is the inspired Word of God
- Inspiration is the foundation upon which **inerrancy** and **authority** rest.