

## “YOUR WORD IS... Inspired (Part 1)”

After Jesus rose from the dead, in one of His post-resurrection appearances to the disciples, John 20:22 says that “...*He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’*” It’s interesting to consider that “Spirit” is equivalent to “breath” or “wind.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” To say that the Scriptures are “inspired by God” is to literally say that our Sacred Writings are “God-breathed.” God breathed His inspired words into 40 different individuals through the ages, from different backgrounds, countries and eras. Yet, a unified theme is consistent throughout all the Scriptures because they all have as their source the breath of God.

We believe that the very words of Scripture are inspired by God, not just the concepts or thoughts. Every part of Scripture is equally inspired; the later writings are not more inspired than the earlier writings – they are all equally inspired by God. We believe that the Bible is without error. While the Bible is primarily a love letter designed to speak to our hearts (it’s not primarily a text book designed to speak to our minds) – yet, when the Bible does speak on scientific, historical or prophetic matters it speaks with complete authority, absolute certainty and accuracy – because God’s breath is the source. Because Scripture is inspired by God and God-breathed, this makes it profitable and beneficial for our lives. Since God gave us the entire Bible, all of its teachings are relevant for our lives. The Bible is meant to be an open, used book; not a decoration, family heirloom, dust collector or good luck charm. “*A Bible in the hand is worth two on the shelf.*”

Paul told Timothy that the blessing of the inspired Scriptures is seen in four areas. **First** of all, ***doctrine*** focuses on the Bible as giving us instruction to live life. It gives us correct information and tells us what is right. The Bible is to be used to instruct and teach us as to what the beliefs of the Christian faith are. The Bible is God’s manual as to how we are to conduct our affairs in every area of society. **Secondly, *reproof*** means confronting our wrong ideas about life and repairing our wrong ways of thinking. The Scriptures bring sin to light and reveal things that are not right in our lives. Not only does it reveal what is right, but it also reveals what is wrong. If we start to adopt a distorted view about God, ourselves or life – the Bible will rebuke that area that needs to be changed. **Third**, the Bible is profitable to ***correct*** our behavior and character flaws. It restores us from a “bent” state to an “upright” state. The Bible changes us and straightens us out. If we lose our way and get off course, the Bible helps us get back on track again. **Fourth**, the Bible is beneficial in the area of ***training*** us in righteousness. The Bible instructs us how to live a life that is pleasing to God, and helps us make right choices and decisions. Since a life of integrity doesn’t come naturally to us, the Bible trains us to do that which we could not do on our own.

In 2 Timothy 3:12, Paul told Timothy that “... *all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*” Many Christian believers have experienced persecution and death preserving, proclaiming and perpetuating the Word of God. Ancient graves are filled with bodies of people who were executed because they refused to give up their copies of God’s treasured Word. May we appreciate the price that has been paid by our predecessors so that we can possess copies of

the true and pure Word of God. May we show the same diligence in passing the faith and the Holy Scriptures along to future generations.

## **Discussion Guide/Action Steps**

1. QUESTION: What should we do when we hear about modern science disagreeing with the Bible? ANSWER: Be patient, and give science time to catch up!
2. Consider this quote from D.L. Moody: *“The Book [the Bible] will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book.”*
3. I know we can never really answer this until the time comes, but how would you like to answer this difficult question: *If you were forced to choose between giving up your life or denouncing the Holy Scriptures, which one would you choose?*