

## THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

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### I. What is Biblical Inspiration?

- A. Definition: Biblical Inspiration is the Christian doctrine that God, by His Holy Spirit, so moved the authors of the original writings of canonical Scripture, that *as they wrote what they genuinely believed and freely chose to write, they wrote exactly as God directed them to write.*

Thus, Scripture is simultaneously the *word and teaching of human authors*, while it is also in every element of its language (i.e., all of its actual vocabulary, grammatical forms, and syntactical arrangements—verbal inspiration) and in its entirety (i.e., in all sixty-six books of the Bible, in all of their parts as originally written—plenary inspiration), verbally and fully *God's very own breathed-out word and truth.*

- B. Trinitarian Agency in Biblical Inspiration—lessons from Heb 1:1 (w/ 3:7 [Ps 95]; 9:8 [Num 18]; 10:15 [Jer 31]); John 3:34; and John 16:13-15. So, Scripture's inspiration is ultimately from the Father, by the authority of and in substance largely concerning the Son, through the breathed out power and wisdom of the Spirit.

### II. Is the Doctrine of Biblical Inspiration taught in the Bible?

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” — emphasis on the Bible as God's word, “breathed out” by Him.

1. Scope of inspiration

2. Ontology and Function

- B. 2 Peter 1:20-21 – “<sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” — emphasis on the Bible as God's word, yet coming to us through the thoughts and writings of human authors in and through whom the Spirit worked.

1. Scripture is not of human origin

2. Humans nevertheless speak forth Scripture

3. God moves and directs the human speech of Scripture

IV. How Can the Bible be BOTH from God and Man? Answer: Concurrence through Compatibilism

Note: Elements of Compatibilism in Scripture: 1) dual agency—both divine and human—in actions and events that take place; 2) compatibilist, not merely collaborative, dual agency, in which divine agency has primacy over and accounts for human choice and action; 3) humans remain morally responsible for their choices and actions; 4) God is praise-worthy for what He brings to pass through the agency of human choice and action.

V. Why is the Inspiration of Scripture Important?

- A. The full inerrancy or truthfulness of Scripture requires and is required by the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture.
- B. The full authority of Scripture requires that Scripture be both inspired and inerrant.
- C. The full sufficiency of Scripture requires that it is fully God's inspired word containing all that He has chosen for us to know.
- D. Inadequacy of general revelation, and need of special revelation—especially Scripture—for knowledge of and belief in God's saving work in Christ.
- E. The Holy Spirit, who inspired Scripture, illumines Scripture to bring about our salvation and enable us to grow in sanctification.