

# Biblical Topics

## Inspiration

The Bible is the Word of God because the writers of the individual books of the Bible did so by inspiration of God.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“By inspiration of God” means that God the Holy Spirit moved the holy men to write, and put into their minds the very thoughts which they expressed, and the very words which they wrote.

Not everything these men ever said and wrote in their lives was the Word of God, but only when and while (divine impulse) they were moved by the Holy Spirit, did they speak and write the Word of God. Many things, which man cannot know of himself, were revealed to them by God; others they had themselves heard and seen; others they personally experienced, as the expressions of repentance and gratitude in the in the Psalms.

The Holy Spirit so controlled their thinking that they recorded no fact, expressed no idea, taught no doctrine which God did not want them to write. Therefore the entire thought content of the Bible is exactly what God wanted them to include in His Book.

- 2 Peter 1:21: For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 2:13: This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
- 1 Corinthians 2:7-11:<sup>7</sup> No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.<sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.<sup>9</sup> However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—<sup>10</sup> but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.<sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
- 1 John 1:1-3: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.<sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.<sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Since all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, all Scripture is the very Word of God. We must receive it “not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God.” We may not criticize it, or find fault with it. There are no myths, no mistakes, no antiquated ideas in it, but it is true and inerrant in all it teaches.

- John 17:17: ... your word is truth.
- John 10:35: ... the Scripture cannot be broken.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13: And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

The above information is taken from: “Luther’s Small Catechism” annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler and A Summary of Christian Doctrine also by Edward W. A. Koehler.