

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-2 The Inspired Scriptures

The Bible is **not** like any other book ever written. It is the **only** book in the world that is totally inspired by God. All 66 books of the Bible were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. Recovering old texts has enabled scholars to discover that the Bible we have today is virtually unchanged from the original words. The Bible has stood throughout the ages as unique, anointed, and the very Word of God.

The apostle Paul served as a mentor to young Timothy, pastor of the church at Ephesus. From a cold dungeon cell, he wrote a second letter to Timothy. Paul knew that his own work was nearly done. He wanted to encourage his ‘son in the faith,’ saying, “I thank God, whom I serve, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also” (2Tim 1:3-5).

The teaching of Scripture had been an important part of Timothy’s life. Paul wrote, “Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of. Because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2Tim 3:14-17). What a wonderful example of passing the divine Word of God on to the next generations!

God instructed the Israelites through Moses to teach the scriptural commands of the Lord to their children. He said, “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands; write them on the doorframes of your houses” (Deut 6:7-9). We need to teach the Scriptures to our families and friends as well.

Our first *Statement of Faith* is: “We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. They are the revelation of God to man, the unchanging rule of faith and conduct.” The verse to remember is Second Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

What do we mean by the words ‘verbally inspired’? We mean that God breathed his message into the hearts of the human writers. Under divine inspiration, the apostle Peter wrote, “No prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God” (2Peter 1:20-21, NLT).

According to Scripture, God sometimes spoke in an audible voice. Sometimes he gave a revelation in dreams and visions. Other times he spoke to people’s hearts and minds so they knew it was God speaking. Verbal inspiration means that every word was inspired by God. The thinking of the holy persons who wrote the 66 books of the Bible was guided by the Holy Spirit, so they could record the true Word of God. Their personalities and styles of writing were not changed when they wrote. They wrote in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

What proof do we have that the Bible is divinely inspired? The Lord Jesus Christ lived by the Scriptures and supported their truth and authority. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, three times he quoted scripture saying, “It is written...” (Matt 4:1-11). Jesus also referred to the Old Testament in his teaching. He mentioned the flood, Elijah and Elisha, Jonah, Noah, and Sodom and Gomorrah. The Apostles also believed the Bible is divinely inspired. They experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the books of the Bible they wrote. The message of the Bible is timeless. It applies to all generations, both ancient and modern. These are just a few of the proofs we have that the Bible is divinely inspired.

The Bible is without error. Ancient manuscripts are still being uncovered that confirm the accuracy of the Scriptures we have today with the original writings. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the original writers, preserved the text and translations that have come down to us today. The Bible is trustworthy, because it is God’s truth.

This lesson is **important** because it helps us understand that even though human writers wrote the words with pen and ink, their thoughts and message came from the Holy Spirit moving upon their hearts. That’s why we believe the Bible is “God-breathed.”

The **main truth** of this lesson is the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Because it is God’s holy Word, we must pass its truths on to our children and grandchildren.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. What do the words “verbally inspired” mean when referring to the Scriptures? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered that God breathed his message into the writers of the Bible by the Holy Spirit, you are correct.
2. What were some of the ways in which God spoke to the writers of Scripture? [Pause.]
 - A. If you said that sometimes God spoke in an audible voice, or in dreams and visions and sometimes in their hearts and minds, you are right.
3. What weapon did Jesus use when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, “Jesus used the Word of God to answer Satan,” you are right.

Your **assignment** is to listen to this lesson as many times as necessary to memorize our first **Statement of Faith**: “We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. They are the revelation of God to man, the unchanging rule of faith and conduct.” The verse to memorize is from Second Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” Share with two other people why you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God.