

INSPIRATION

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Revelation and inspiration, though not the same, are vitality related.
2. In our previous study of “Revelation” we learned what it is, the purpose of it, or why it was necessary, and the means or the method of it.
 - a. Revelation is the “Mystery” made known; that is, revelation is the “mystery” (that which is in the mind of God and unknown to man) revealed – it is God manifesting his will to man.
 - b. The purpose of revelation was to communicate the will of God to man that man might know what he needed to believe and do in order to be saved from past sins, live righteously, and have hope of eternal life with God.
 - c. The method of revelation pertains to how God made his will known to man, which was accomplished by a miraculous intervention of God through the Holy Spirit.
 - d. The Spirit of God, or the Holy Spirit, who “searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God,” and “the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God,” was the means or the method by which “God hath revealed unto us”... “the things which God hath prepared for them that love him,” 1Cor.2:6-11; Eph.3:1-4.
 - e. This “hidden wisdom” of God was revealed to, or delivered to, man by means of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Apostles of Jesus Christ, Jno.14,15,16.
3. This brings us to our study of the subject of inspiration to learn what it is and what part it plays in making known the revelation of God’s will to man.

II. DISCUSSION

A. WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

1. Although the idea is there in scores of passages, the word “inspiration” is found only one time in the N.T. Scriptures, and even then it is a part of a whole clause that is translated from a

single Greek word in the original language of the N.T., and which is found in 2Tim.3:16,17.

2. The Greek word from which “inspiration” comes (*theopneustos*) is translated into the whole clause, “as given by inspiration of God.”
3. The word “inspiration” means “breathed out from God” or “God breathed.”
4. For instance, when a balloon is punctured or an auto tire goes flat, the air is breathed out, are crude examples of the same manner the Scriptures are “God breathed.”
5. Our English word “inspire” does not denote the same idea as the original Greek word of the N.T.; it means “to inhale air into the lungs, opposed to expire,” Web.Dict.). The Greek word means to “exhale.”
6. The word “exhale” may suggest to the mind that God breathed into something, but the Greek strongly affirms that the Scriptures came out from God; that they were “breathed out from God.”
7. Having come out from God, they are, therefore, the revelation of God’s will and way – the Word breathed out from Him.
8. Thus the Biblical concept of inspiration is emphatic that the Scriptures originated with God, came out from God.
9. We learn therefore that inspiration is the method of revelation, and is an integral part of the total process of revelation.
10. Technically, it is not totally accurate to say, as is often the case, that: “Revelation plus inspiration equals the Bible.” The truth of the matter can be more nearly stated by saying, “Revelation by inspiration equals the Bible.”
11. Inspiration is the method by which revelation was delivered – it is part of the total process.

B. HOW WAS INSPIRATION USED TO DELIVER THE REVELATION OF GOD’S WILL TO MAN?

1. As we have learned earlier, the Holy Spirit, knowing the mind of God, was sent by the Lord to deliver the revelation of God.
2. It was His function in the Divine scheme of things to take the contents of the divine mind and convey them to the human mind.
3. But how did the Holy Spirit accomplish this task?
 - a. He did it through revelation.

- b. He put the will of God into the words of God, and by these words, given through chosen men, known as the Apostles of Christ, he conveyed the mind, the will, and the way of God.
- c. Thus the revelation of God was delivered through chosen men to all men by means of the Holy Spirit.
- d. We sometimes call these chosen men “inspired men,” and perhaps accurately so; but in actual fact, using “Bible words for Bible things,” it was the words they used that were inspired, not the men per se; for it was the words of God they spoke and wrote – “God breathed,” words “breathed out from God.”

C. ANOTHER VITAL, CRUCIAL, CRITICAL POINT NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED AND/OR MISUNDERSTOOD IS THIS: HOW DID THE HOLY SPIRIT CHOSE THE WORDSS AND PRESENT THE REVELATION THROUGH THE PERSONALITIES, EXPERIENCES, AND EVEN THE VOCABULARIES OF THE CHOSEN MEN WITHOUT VERBALLY DICTATING THE WORDS TO THEM?

- 1. According to 2Pet.1:20,21 we have our answer.
 - a. The prophets were borne (carried) along by the Spirit: “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit,” V.21b.
 - (1) They were passive, in a sense, in their revelation by the Spirit of God.
 - (2) Passive in the sense of their contributing nothing of their **own will** to the revelation delivered through them by means of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. “No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation,” V.21a.
 - (1) The revelation itself came from God to them by means of the Holy Spirit, and no true prophet of God ever claimed that any part of the revelation originated with him, or was of his own will.
 - (2) That is, no prophecy of the Scripture comes of spring into existence by means of private interpretation, or merely as the result of the prophets own personal desire, design, or explanation; it is not the product of those who

delivered it, but of God by means of the Holy Spirit. See Gal.1:11,12; Eph.3:1-4.

- (3) In the revelation of God's will to man through these chosen men of God, the Holy Spirit used words, which are identified as the word of God, but words which he selected from the vocabulary of the men chosen through whom the word was delivered.
 - (4) These chosen man thus spake in harmony with their own vocabulary (their own experience and personality being used by the Holy Spirit), but the words used were chosen by the Holy Spirit to speak the word of God to men through these chosen men.
 - (5) The Holy Spirit thus used their methods, knowledge, experience, action, and words to teach men the will of God.
 - (6) Thus we see the difference in the personality and methods of experience in each writer of the N.T. books. Therefore, Peter's writings reflect his personality and Paul's writings reflect his, etc.,etc.; et. al.; et. al.
2. The very fact that the Holy Spirit selected words only from each man's vocabulary accounts for all the differences in each writer's style and method of writing.
 3. The Spirit used only what each writer had, including knowledge, education, profession, personality, and experience.
 4. Regardless of what words were chosen of the writer's vocabulary or whether the writer was limited in learning or a profound logician, they were selected, in the final analysis, by the Holy Spirit and not by the men themselves.

III. CONCLUSION

1. The conclusion is simple: Chosen men were directed (inspired) by the Holy Spirit to deliver the inspired message of God they had received by revelation.
2. The words they used to deliver the message were "inspired words" – for "all scripture is given by inspiration of God;" that is, "breathed out from God," or "God breathed."

3. Inspiration is therefore the method used by God by means of the Holy Spirit to deliver the message of God; that is, the method used in directing chosen men as spokesmen to deliver the revelation – the revelation which pointed lost men to Jesus Christ and the gospel of Christ, who by which takes away the sins of those who believe and obey.
4. The final form of that revelation is the inspired Scriptures which we now have in written form so that we can read and come to understand the “knowledge” the very apostles of Christ had who received it by revelation and wrote it down for our learning. See Eph.3:3,4; 5:17.
5. Finally, remember and consider the importance of 2Tim.2:15.

(Credit to Howard Winters -- from his book: “The Word of the Holy Spirit,” pp.8-17)