

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit and the Scriptures

Inspiration

Q: Who Wrote the Bible?

A: Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Definitions:

- "God so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that without excluding their human intelligence, their individuality, their literary style, their personal feelings, or any other human factor, His own complete and coherent message to man was recorded in perfect accuracy, the very words of Scriptures bearing the authority of divine authorship."¹
- "Biblical Inspiration may be explained as God's superintending human authors so that, using their own individual personalities they composed and recorded without error His message to man in the words of their original writings in the Bible. God superintended but did not dictate. His superintendence was sometimes very direct and sometimes less direct but always active, so that He guarded the writers from writing inaccurately. He used human authors including their own individual styles. They were not stenographers receiving dictation. The result of this combination of human and divine authorship was a record that in the original manuscripts was without error."²

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (ESV)
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

(2 Sam. 23:2-3; Ez. 3:24-27; Zech. 7:12; John 14:26)

¹ John Walvoord, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 55.

² "Inspiration", in *The New Bible Dictionary*, InterVarsity Press.

- Old Testament quotes in the New Testament;
 - o Mk. 12:36 and Psalm 110
 - o Acts 4:24-26 and Psalm 2
 - o Heb. 3:7 and Psalm 95(cf. Heb. 4:7)

Illumination

Definition: “Illumination is the Spirit’s work in the mind of a believer to reveal the truth of God.” – Jack Hughes

Key Scriptures:

- Psalm 119:18 – Open my eyes,
That I may behold wondrous things out of your law. (ESV)
- 1 Cor. 2:11-14 - For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)
- 1 John 2:20, 27 - [20] But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge...[27] But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.(ESV)

(Matt. 13:10-17; John 8:43)

Summary:

“Through His ministry of inspiration, the Holy Spirit has given us the Word of God. And through His ministry of illumination, He has opened our eyes to understand and submit to biblical truth.” – John MacArthur