

Inspiration Enables Trust

Text : **II Tim. 3: 6-17**



INTRODUCTION :

A. What is the foundation of your relationship with God ?

1. This is such a basic question many have never thought about it.
2. One is only able to have a relationship with God via faith.
 - a. **Heb. 11: 6-** And without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is
and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - b. **Read ... I Pet. 1: 3-12** ... The outcome of having faith is an eternal relationship with God.

B. How does one come to have faith ?

1. Faith is a response to knowledge.
 - a. When something is proven to be true, it is fact, not faith.
 - b. Faith involves trust in the validity of something that has not been or which cannot be empirically proven.
ill.- A soldier jumps out of an airplane because he has faith in his parachute.
2. One who believes in the unseen God of Heaven must accept His existence by of faith.
 - a. The existence of the universe is proof a creator exists, but it does not identify Him.
 - b. The realm of nature testifies of the existence of a God, but it does not reveal Him.
 - c. Only a fool would deny the existence of “A” God, (**Psa. 14: 1**) but who is He ?
3. Revelation is necessary to identify the creator as the God of Heaven.
 - a. Thus, revelation provides the foundation upon which faith is built.
 - b. **Rom. 10: 17-** So faith comes from hearing, and
hearing by the word concerning Christ.
 - c. **THEREFORE, a reliable source of information about God is essential to faith.**

C. Where does one find such a reliable source of information ?

1. Today God does not appear to people along the road to Damascus.
2. The Holy Scriptures are the **only** reliable source of information leading to faith.
 - a. **II Tim. 3: 15-** ... from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - b. **I Cor. 1: 21-** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

I. The bible claims to be inspired of God.

A. Refer to text :

1. **II Tim. 3: 16-** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
2. This is the only place in the scriptures the word translated “**inspired**” is used.
3. It’s a very descriptive and self-defining word.
 - a. **θεόπνευστος** (*theopneustos*) is a compound word “Theo” and “pneutos.”
 - b. It literally means “God-breathed.”
 - c. Thus, it indicates words received directly from the mouth of God.

B. The N.T. writers claimed to have received their messages directly from God.

1. Jesus promised inspiration to His disciples.
 - a. **John 16:13-** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
 - b. **Matt. 10:19-** But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.
2. The Apostle Paul claimed to have received his instructions from God.

- a. **I Cor. 2: 12-13**- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.
- b. **I Tim. 4: 1**- But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
- c. **I Cor. 14: 37**- If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

C. The N.T. writers affirmed that the O.T. writers received their message from God.

- 1. **II Pet. 1: 20-21**- But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- 2. **Heb. 1:1-2**- God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, ...
- 3. **Acts 3: 21**- ... the Christ appointed for you²¹ whom Heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

D. The prophets themselves claimed to be speaking the words of God.

- 1. **II Sam. 23: 2**- The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.
- 2. **Jer. 1: 9**- Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."

II. How does inspiration work ?

A. It's neither important nor possible that we know or understand how it works.

- 1. Our inability to understand does not limit God's ability to accomplish it.
- 2. We do not understand God's providence, but we know it to be happening all around us.

3. **Deut. 29: 29** ... If God had wanted us to know, He would have made it clear.

B. Men have received the words of God in a variety of ways.

1. God has spoken **verbally** to some people.
 - a. Noah ... **Gen. 6:13, 7:1, 8:15**
 - b. Moses ... **Exod. 3: 4, etc.**
 - c. Nation of Israel ... **Exod. 20: 18-21**
2. God sent **angels** to give messages to some people.
 - a. Abraham ... **Gen. 18: 1ff**
 - b. Lot ... **Gen. 19: 1f** (**Jacob wrestled with an angel. ... Gen. 32**)
 - c. Zacharias, father of John the baptizer ... **Luke 1: 11ff**
3. God sent special **dreams** to some prophets.
 - a. **Num. 12: 6-8** He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream."⁷ "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?"
 - b. **Dan. 1: 7f** ... Daniel was given dreams visions which he wrote as scripture. (**Rev.**)
4. The prophets were given **visions**.
 - a. What is a vision ? Vivid images, received while awake. (**knew it was different**)
 - b. **Isa. 1: 1**- The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. (Compare : **Ezek 1:1, Hosea 12: 10**, and many others.)
 - c. **Acts 10** ... The prophets did not always understand their visions or dreams.
 - * **God has also communicated to unsaved people, e.g., Cornelius by visions.**
5. Sometimes God communicated by **placing His message in their heart**.
 - a. **II Sam. 23: 2**- The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

- b. The inner voice was not always immediately clear to the prophets.

I Cor. 7: 40- But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is;
and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

- 6. The will of God was sometimes expressed via the **casting of lots**.

- a. Priests were instructed to use the Urim and the Thummim to seek God's will.

Exod. 28: 30 compared to **Num. 27: 21**

- b. The Apostles cast lots to see who God would pick as an Apostle. **Acts 1: 23-26**

- c. **Prov. 16: 33-** The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.

- 7. Inspired prophets were guided by the **writings of other prophets**. (2 Pet 3:15-16 ref Paul)

- a. Daniel read the writings of Jeremiah. **Dan. 9: 2** (Paul quoted Luke 10:7 .. I Tim 5:18)

- b. Luke did research before writing his gospel to Theophilus. **Luke 1: 1-4**

*** Jesus endorsed the writings of the O.T. as God's way to communicate to man.**

Luke 16: 26-31 ...The rich man brothers had to listen to the dead prophets via writings.

III. What is the extent of inspiration in the bible ?

A. Every word in the bible is from God. “All Scripture is inspired by God ...”

- 1. Some claim the bible just “contains the word of God.”

- a. “In order to get the message of God, one must remove cultural aspects of the bible.”

- b. “The bible contains myths and fables as well as the will of God.”

- 2. If the bible is not ALL from God it's not dependable as a foundation for our faith.

- a. If one part of the bible is discredited, none of it is trustworthy.

- b. If ALL of the bible were not from God, men could never agree which parts were not.

B. God was very specific in His revelation.

- 1. God told Moses exactly what to say.

Exod. 4: 12- Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth,
and teach you what you are to say.

2. God told the Prophet Ezekiel exactly what to say. (**to write**)

Ezek. 2: 7- But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.

3. Jesus promised the Apostles they would be given the exact words to say.

Matt. 19: 10- But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.

C. The scriptures are so precise arguments can be made from individual words.

1. **Gal. 3: 16-** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed.

He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

2. Compare : **Acts 15: 13-17** & **Heb. 7: 4-10**

D. THUS, the inspiration of the scriptures is both "VERBAL" and "PLENARY."

1. **VERBAL** means the words are from God.
2. **PLENARY** means the whole bible, every single word is from God.

IV. What does inspiration mean to us ?

A. It means that we can trust the scriptures to lead us to God.

1. That there is a God is obvious to any honest observer of the creation.
2. We learn who the creator is by reading what He has revealed about Himself in the bible.
3. The scriptures provide a safe revelation upon which to base our faith in God.

B. Because the bible came from God, we know there are no errors in it.

1. God is holy and God is perfect so He has made no mistakes. **INERRANT**
2. God's perfect revelation was given through imperfect people.
 - a. The prophets of old sinned. (Remember David.)
 - b. The New Testament writers sinned. (Paul struggled, but rebuffed Peter.)

c. God used the writer's life experiences, personality, abilities, etc. **CONFLUENT**

C. The words of God carry with them God's authority. **AUTHORITATIVE**

1. Opinions, traditions and the teachings of men have no authority.
2. No man can override or change the "words breathed by God."
3. Those who try to twist the scriptures do so to their own destruction.

II Pet. 3: 14-16 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

D. It is only when we have read all the bible has to say about a subject that we have God's will on that subject, not before. (**only reliable foundation)**

CONCLUSION :

A. Therefore, the one who wants to have a relationship with God, must establish that relationship via God's revealed word, the bible.

1. One cannot have faith in a God he does not know.
2. Whether spoken or written, saving faith is a response to the message concerning Jesus.

a. **Rom. 10: 17**

b. **James 1: 21**

B. God has reached out to you through His son Jesus and through His revealed word.

1. **"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."**
2. In Jesus God has given us the living water to satisfy the thirst of our souls. **John 4:10-11**
3. By His inspired word, God has lead you to the water of life.

4. The decision whether or not to drink is yours alone.

C. Are you drinking of the living water from God's word, the bible ?

1. If taken with an open heart, it will change your life.
2. If taken regularly, it will draw you ever closer to God.
3. If taken unmixed, it will save your soul.

INVITATION :