#### Webster’s dictionary defines inspiration as: The act of breathing into anything.

#### The word inspiration is derived from the Latin *in spiro* meaning to ‘breathe in’.

#### The word inspiration literally means *God breathed*.

2 Timothy 3:16—***All scripture is given by inspiration of God****, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*

The phrase given by inspiration of God is translated from the one Greek word: *theopneustos,* which is derived from *Theos* - God and *pneuma* – The Holy Ghost. *Pneuma* is derived from a word that means breath. The literal translation of this phrase (given by inspiration of God) is: **GOD BREATHED.**

### The word inspiration is used in reference to the Divine origin of the Scriptures.

### The Bible was not just written by the mind and hand of man. The Holy Ghost breathed the Word into the men who were the human tools of the Divine Author.

II Peter 1:21*—For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*.

The prophecy in this context refers back to verse 20 which says: *Knowing this first, that no* *prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* These verses refer to the prophecy contained in the Scripture.

The Scripture did not come to us just by man. The men were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. This Divine action of God moving upon man to give them the Word is what is meant by inspiration.

The Bible was written by men with the breath of the Almighty God upon them.

(2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 1:16; Mark 12:36)

All Scripture is excellent in spirit, beautiful in language and grand in prophetic imagery, but its superiority is not in natural talents nor is Scripture words of mere human invention, but its excellence lies in the fact its **words are breathed by God.**

(Heb. 3:7,8,15; John 13:18,21; Hab. 3:2,16; Isa. 51:16; 59:21; Jer. 1:9; 5:14; 20:9; 23:18-19,22,29)

No man of intelligence, however, can go from reading Shakespeare to reading the Bible without feeling that the difference between the two is more than just by degree.

The Bible far supersedes the books of men.

### “Verbal and plenary inspiration” is the correct understanding of the inspiration of the Bible?

### The entire Bible is inspired of God.

II Timothy 3:16—*All scripture is given by inspiration of God…*

**The view that the Bible in its entirety is inspired of God is called *plenary* inspiration.** Plenary means full or complete. The Complete Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the inspired Word of God. All Scripture is equally inspired.

Because it is inspired of God, the Bible is *infallible*. Infallible means *to be totally exempt from the possibility of mistake*. This word is applied to God who is not capable of error or mistake. Used in reference to the Bible, infallible refers to the Divine Authorship of Scripture. The Divine Author is infallible and therefore His Word is infallible.

### The Old Testament is inspired by God.

Over and over again we can find the following phrases in the Old Testament:

“Word of the Lord”

“God said/spake”

“God commanded”

“God appeared”

“the Lord said/spake”

“thus saith the Lord

“the Word of God”

Num. 22:38 *And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.*

Deut. 4:2*—Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

“God created”

Isaiah 42:5—***Thus saith God the LORD****, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth* ***breath*** *unto the people upon it, and* ***spirit*** *to them that walk therein:*

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Job 34:14 If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

16 If now thou hast understanding, hear this: hearken to the voice of my words.

These phrases affirm the inspiration of the Old Testament. The validity of these claims of inspiration is evident from the minuteness and detail as to names, times, and places which characterized their messages, and from the exact literal fulfillment of their prophecies.

Acts 28:25—*And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,*

2 Peter 1:21—*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*.

Hebrews 1:1—*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

Dt.18:18-22—*v. 22* ***When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.***

### The New Testament is inspired by God

The writers of the NT claim inspiration for OT writers as well as for themselves:

Acts 1:16—*…this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus..,*

Luke 1:70—*As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:*

Acts 3:18 *But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.*

Acts 3:21— *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Acts 4:25*—Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?*

### The Men were Inspired

The Scripture declares that Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. – 2 Peter 1:21 God breathed His Word through the men that were the human instruments to write the Bible. The prophet’s spoken words from God were used by God to communicate with His people. The Lord instructed many of these men to write down His Words. The men were inspired and instructed by God to give His Word to the people.

1Thessalonians 2:13—*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

John 6:63—*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Eph. 3:8—*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

9*—And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

### The Words were Inspired

#### Not only were the men inspired by God, but the very choice of words came straight from the throne of God. God inspired the choice of the words of Scripture. **This is referred to as verbal inspiration.** The writers were not left absolutely to themselves in the choice of words that they should use. God guided the very wording of the Bible.

Jude 17—*But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

2 Peter 3:2—*That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour*

John 12:48—*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

### The Letters were Inspired

The very letters of the words of the Bible are Divinely inspired. For example, let us look at the doctrine of “one seed and not many” through Christ which is established by the use of a single letter: ‘s.’

Galatians 3:16—*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed,* ***which is Christ****.* (comp. Gen. 22:16-18)

The ‘s’ in this verse makes ALL the difference. The ‘s’ makes the difference between singularity and plurality and most important the difference of stating that there is one mediator or stating there are many mediators. Had God said ‘seeds’ instead of ‘seed’ the promises could have come through Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed, the Pope or anyone else that chose this claim of fame. By definite use of singularity, God closes the door on false messengers and exalts Christ as the ONLY way to God. The promised seed could only be Christ and not Christ and Buddha or Christ and Mohammed. Jesus Christ alone was and is the promised seed.

### Every Iota was Inspired

Matthew 5:18—*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

A *jot* could be equaled by an apostrophe (‘) and a *tittle* equaled by a hyphen (-).

“The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth on the throne. Every book of it, every chapter, ever verse, every word, every syllable, every letter is the direct utterance of The Most High.”

## Demonstration of Biblical Inspiration

### It produces “Born Again” Men.

*II Corinthians 5:17—Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

The following chart lists men of God who have been converted through various portions of Scripture. These Scriptures had an impact on the lives of these men of God.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| John Calvin | Isaiah 53:5 | C.H. Spurgeon | Isaiah 45:22 |
| Henry Moorhouse | Matthew 1:21 | John Williams | Mark 8:36 |
| Sir James Simpson | John 3:14,15 | W.P. Lockhart | John 19:30 |
| David Livingston | Acts 16:31 | William Cowper | Romans 3:25 |
| Sir George Williams | I Corinthians 15:1-4 | Martin Luther | Galatians 3:11 |
| Lord Shaftesbury | I Peter 3:18 | Hedley Vicars | I John 1:7 |
| James Chalmers | Revelation 22:17 | Robert Moffat | John 3:16 |
| Duncan Mathieson | John 3:16 | Richard Weaver | John 3:16 |

Who ever heard of anyone being made “a new creature” through Homer, Shakespeare, Scott, Dickens, Macauley, Huxley, Carlyle, Eliot, Kipling, Wells, or anyone else? Millions have been made new by reading and believing the Bible which is the Word of God.

### It produces spiritual growth.

The Bible produces spiritual growth in the lives of the saints of God. The Bible is the spiritual food of the Christian and must be read daily for Christian strength and growth.

Jeremiah 15:16—*Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.*

1 Peter 2:2—*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

2Peter 3:18—*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

### It cleanses the life.

The Bible can cleanse the lives of men and women. The Holy Ghost will convict men through the Word. The Bible will reveal to men what needs to be changed in their lives. The laver in the Tabernacle is a symbol of the Word of God. The priests were required to wash in the laver every time they came into the service of the Lord.

John 15:3—*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.* (Eph. 5:26)

Psalms 119:9—*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

1Peter 1:22*—Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

23*—Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

### It builds up the believer.

There is strength and encouragement in the Word of God. The Word will build you up and sustain you in the difficult times. Christians can stand upon this sure foundation.

Romans 16:25—*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel…*

Ephesians 2:20 -22—*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*.

### It ends in perfection. (Read Ephesians 4:11-15)

## Definite Proofs of Biblical Inspiration

There are crystal clear proofs of the inspiration of the Bible. Besides the declarations of the text itself, multitudes of Biblical facts indicate that Scripture was divinely inspired.

### Its Unbroken and Perfect Unity

The Bible contains 66 books written by approximately 40 different men in four languages spanning a period of 1600 years, by men living as far as 1500 miles apart. The men used were from all walks of life; they were kings, doctors, prophets, shepherds, servants, fisherman, and even a tax collector. Yet there is unbroken and perfect unity throughout the entire Bible. This could only be the work of God.

### Its Fearless Foretelling

The Bible foretells events many years and even centuries before they took place. The timing of the writing of the Old Testament prophecies can be historically documented because an accurate record of the history between the Testaments has survived. This historical record confirms the date of the ending of the Old Testament placing a four hundred year biblical silence between the last of O.T. prophecy and the start of N.T. fulfillments. The dates when the Bible books were written can be historically documented. The Septuagint, which is a Greek translation of the Old Testament, can be accurately placed at least two-hundred and fifty years before the birth of Christ. Since the Greek Septuagint was translated from the Hebrew text there had to have been the Hebrew Old Testament in existence at least two-hundred and fifty years before the New Testament. This is historical proof that these prophecies were written hundreds of years in advance of their detailed fulfillment in the New Testament. There is no possible way that man could have made such accurate predictions. This is a definite and inarguable proof of the Inspiration of Scripture.

EXAMPLES OF ACCURATELY FULFILLED PROPHECY:

#### The Prophecies of Christ

* He would be of the seed of Abraham – Gen. 22:18 – Mt. 1:1
* He would be a descendant of David – Jer. 23:5 – Mt. 1:1
* He would come from the tribe of Judah – Micah 5:2 – Mt. 1:2, Heb. 7:14
* He would be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 – Mt. 2:1
* There were 29 prophesies fulfilled in one day during the events of the crucifixion of Jesus which were accurately predicted in great detail centuries before His death.
* There are over 300 Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ.

Acts 3:18*—But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.*

Jesus fulfilled all the O.T. prophecies concerning Him despite improbability. No man is able to choose his lineage before he is born, yet Jesus was born exactly according to the lineage as prophesied. There were other people involved in the fulfillments of these prophecies such as the Roman soldiers who parted Jesus garments among them and cast lots for His robe. Even the darkness that took place at the death of Christ can be historically documented and verified. The prophet Amos foretold of this darkness approximately 700 years before it occurred. There is no human explanation as to the accurate fulfillment of these Messianic prophecies. **This is a clear proof of the inspiration of the Bible!**

#### The Prophecies of Israel

* Moses prophesied of the future of Israel. – Deut. 4:23-38.
* They would become captives because of their sin. –Is. 22:17, Jer. 20:6.
* They would be scattered into all lands. – Deut. 30:1-3.
* They would be persecuted. – Lk. 19:41-44.
* Preceding the time of Christ’s return, Israel would be gathered again to her own land.

(Luke 21:29-32; Eze. 36-37) This was fulfilled May 14, 1948.

Ezekiel 36:24—*For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

* God stated that He would watch over the people of Israel like a shepherd (Jeremiah 31:10). Less than 24 hours after Israel declared independence in 1948, its surrounding countries (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon) attacked Israel, hoping to replace the Jewish state with an Arab state. These countries are much larger than Israel, but tiny Israel prevailed in that war and was able to capture additional land! Israel also prevailed in two other major wars that followed (Six-Day War, 1967 and Yom Kippur War, 1973).

#### The Prophecies of Nations

* Babylon was overthrown and brought down like Sodom as prophesied

(Isa. 13:19; Jer. 51:37). Daniel 5 describes the transfer of power to the Medes and Persians.

* The Grecian Empire was the third kingdom described in the prophetic dream in Daniel

2:39 with Babylon being the first Kingdom. Alexander the Great conquered the world exactly as was foretold in this prophecy

* The division of the Roman Empire is also foretold in the division of the legs of the same image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2.
* Nineveh was laid waste by fierce nomadic peoples. Nahum (1-3, 3:7) foretold that the gates would be *set wide open to thine enemies* (3:13). The Tigris river flooded at the time of the attack and washed away much of the walls including the gates of the city.
* Tyre was to be destroyed according to Ezekiel 26:3-14. This is a very specific prophecy given approximately 588 BC. The Scripture declares that many nations would come against Tyre. v. 3. God said he would bring the king of Babylon against them. v.7. The prophecy states that the stones, the timber and the dust would be cast into the water. v. 12. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, did lay siege to Tyre for thirteen years. Alexander the Great took the city of Tyre on the Island in 332 BC by building a land bridge to the Island. They used stones, timber from the destroyed buildings and earthen fill to make what is called a mole (earthen bridge) in the water. The soldiers put the stones, timber, and dust into the water exactly according to the prophecy. This specific fulfilled event is beyond the mere speculation of man.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

The mole of Alexander the Great is still in existence today.

* Jesus foretold of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. – Mt. 24:1-2, Mk. 13:1-3. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 under the Roman General Titus. The temple was burned and the gold melted between the stones. The soldiers literally took apart the Temple stone by stone to retrieve the gold. Again the prophecy was fulfilled in detail exactly as Jesus said it would be.

The Prophecies of the Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-9—v. 1 This know also, that in the last days…

There are numerous accurate descriptions of the last days found in Scripture. These are just some of the prophecies that describe the condition of our day:

* An increase of knowledge – Dan. 12:4

Think of all the new innovations that have taken place within the last one hundred years. The Wright brothers ‘ first flight was in 1903 and today air travel is a common mode of transportation. There has been so much advancement in technology in a very short time.

* Many false prophets – Mt. 24:5,11
* Wars and rumors of wars – Mt. 24:6
* Famines, pestilences and earthquakes – Mt. 24:7
* Iniquity shall abound – Mt. 24:12
* Gospel preached in the entire the world – Mt. 24:14
* Eating, drinking and marrying – Mt. 24:38
* As it was in the days of Lot – Luke 17: 28-29

(They drank, bought, sold, planted and built. This sounds a lot like the people today. There is also a rise of the sin of homosexuality today as it was in the days of Lot.)

* A departing from the faith – I Tim. 4:1

### Its Historical Accuracy

Archaeology is about learning about the past by finding things that were used by ancient peoples. These ancient artifacts tell us information about the people that used them.

There have been many archeological finds that support the historical accuracy of the Bible. As a matter of fact, no archeological find has yet to contradict the Bible.

Critics have argued that the Bible is not historically accurate, yet archeology continues to validate the Bible as true.

A Hittite library was discovered in Turkey in 1906 confirming the accuracy of the Biblical record of the Hittite people.

There have been skeletons found of giant people confirming the description of giants in the Bible.

The remains of a crucifixion victim were found in Jerusalem in 1968. The victim’s feet had one nail hole that penetrated through both feet and one nail hole in each of the lower arms. The man was believed to have been executed by the Romans in the Jewish uprising of AD 70. This confirms that crucifixion was indeed a means of execution used by the Romans as described in the Biblical account of the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Book of Acts has been confirmed to be historically accurate.

There have been inscriptions found containing the names of people described in the Bible in the locations the Bible places the people in.

There have been many archeological finds that continue to confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible. This is more evidence that testifies to the inspiration of Scripture.

### Its Scientific Accuracy

The Bible is scientifically accurate. There are things described in the Bible that the men that wrote them would have no way of knowing. God is the author of Scripture and knows all things.

The descriptions in the Bible are true and scientifically accurate.

The dimensions of Noah’s Ark given to Noah by God are in perfect proportion for a most seaworthy vessel. Modern vessels that have been designed with advanced understanding of physics and the use of computer technology use the same proportions that Noah did. There is no way that Noah could have had access to this knowledge. The only logical conclusion is to believe the Biblical account that God give these dimensions to Noah.

The book of Job refers to the parting of light. Job 38:24 Light can be separated into parts with a prism. There is no way that Job which is the oldest book in the Bible could have known that light can be divided.

Ecclesiastes refers to the circuits of the wind. There are wind currents and patterns that have been discovered by modern science with the aid of satellites and computers. The men of the O.T. times would not have had access to such information, yet again the Bible accurately refers to the circuits of the wind.

How did the writer of Ecclesiastes know that the rivers run into the sea. –Eccl. 1:7

Isaiah spoke of God sitting upon the circle of the earth. Is. 40:22. The earth was not proven to be round until Magellan’s expedition sailed around the world in the 1500’s. Isaiah did not have access to such information. This again is a testimony to the Inspiration of Scripture.

### Its Peerless Power

Romans 1:16—*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

The Bible is more than just a book. The Bible is the Word of God. Those who earnestly read the Bible in faith can be changed by the power of God. God can use the Bible to change men’s lives. Many lives have been changed by the power of God by simply reading and believing the Bible.

The Bible has power to save people from all walks of life: drunkards, drug addicts, prostitutes, thieves, murderers, all sinners. All can be saved through Jesus Christ. Without exception, counsel and direction for every situation of life can be found in the Word of God. Unequaled and unrivaled, the Bible stands prominently above any and all other written works. Simply, the Bible is the only book God ever wrote.

2Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

1Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Re 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Re 19:1 ¶ And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: