

## INSPIRATION – GOD HAS SPOKEN

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God...”*

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

The doctrine of divine inspiration answers a foundational question: What is the Bible? By its own testimony it declares, “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The word translated “breathed out” means that Scripture originates from God himself. Inspiration does not mean the Bible merely “inspires” us emotionally or motivationally. It means the Bible is God’s own word. Because it comes from him, it is trustworthy and authoritative.

This applies to all Scripture, not just favorite passages or obviously theological sections. History, instruction, poetry, prophecy, doctrine — every part carries divine authority because God intended it to be there. The apostles understood their message to be the word of God, and their writings were recognized as Scripture within the New Testament itself. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says, “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God.”

Thus, the Bible is from God, but God did not bypass human agency. The Bible was written by real people with distinct personalities and styles. Yet “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:19-21). The Spirit superintended the writing process without erasing human individuality. What they wrote was fully their words and fully God’s word. Nothing was included that God did not intend, and nothing he purposed to reveal was omitted. Inspiration is therefore both divine and human, but ultimately grounded in God’s sovereign oversight.

The Bible does not just “become” God’s word when it speaks to us and strikes an emotional chord. It **is** God’s word. And the purpose of this revelation is not merely information, but transformation. Scripture shines “as a lamp in a dark place,” leading us to Christ and producing worship, obedience, and hope. We study the Bible because God has spoken, and when God speaks, his people listen.

*How does believing that Scripture is God’s own word shape the way you read, obey, and treasure the Bible?*