



The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture

Adapted from *FireBible* Article: *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture* by Danny Duvall

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Note for pastors/leaders

This study may be the most important truth you may ever deal with. Accepting the Inspiration of scripture gives you a source of truth, the Bible. With confidence that the Bible truly is the Word of God you have a divine

resource to build and guide your life. Without this book of authority, you are on your own.

When Paul uses the word “Scripture” in 2 Tim. 3:16 he refers primarily to all Old Testament writings. There is indication that some New Testament writings were already being seen as Authoritative Scripture.

1 Timothy 5:18 (ESV) *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”*

Luke 10:7–9 (ESV) ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

For the contemporary believer the term ‘Scripture’ refers to the writings of both Old and New Testament “The Bible”. They are God’s original message to humanity and the only infallible witness to God’s saving activity for all people.

Thirteen Facts about the Bible

1. The Bible is “God-breathed.”

Greek word, “Theopneustos.” Theos – God;
Pneo- To breath

The words of the original manuscripts are without error, absolutely true, trustworthy and infallible. It is true when it speaks of salvation, ethical morality, history and the cosmos.

Imagine holding your Bible to your chin and inhaling as if you are allowing the very breath of God to come off the pages of the Bible and into your lungs. When you read and hear the Bible that is what is happening!

2. Old Testament writers were conscious of the fact that what they said to the people was considered to be God’s Word.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (ESV) I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put

my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

2 Samuel 23:2 (ESV) “The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

3. Jesus himself taught that the scriptures were God’s Word to the smallest detail.

Matthew 5:18 (ESV) For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Jesus also was clear that more Scripture was to come.

John 16:13 (ESV) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

4. To deny the full inspiration of Scripture is to set aside the witness of:

- **Jesus Christ - Luke 24:27 (ESV)** ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- **The Holy Spirit - 1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
- The **Apostles - 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)** ²⁰ 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.

5. The Holy Spirit, without violating the personality of the writers, moved on them in such a way they were without error.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

6. The inspired Word of God is the expression of God's wisdom and character.

John 6:63 (ESV) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

7. The Scripture is forever finished and is uniquely binding. No human words or declarations are equal to its authority.

8. All commentaries, teachings, interpretations, explanations and traditions must be judged and legitimized by the words and message in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 13:3 (ESV) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

9. God's Word must be the final authority in all things leading to godliness.

John 14:21 (ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training in righteousness**,

10. The Bible is understood when we have the right relationship with the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (ESV) ¹² 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.

11. We must use the inspired Word to conquer sin and Satan.

1 John 2:14 (ESV) I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

12. The Scripture must be loved by all in the church.

2 Timothy 1:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

13. The inerrant inspiration applies only to the original writing of the Biblical books.

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)**

Read the *FireBible* article, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*. Answer the following:¹

1. What is meant when believers today use the word, “Scripture?”
2. Under the OT, the prophets knew that what they said and wrote was what?
3. What did Jesus say about the inspiration, authority, and truthfulness of Scripture?
4. What can we say about those who deny or limit the inspiration of the Bible?

¹ Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 281.

5. How did God carry and guide the biblical writers as they wrote?
6. Why is the Bible able to give wisdom and lead us to spiritual life?
7. We must use the Bible to examine, judge, and measure (what)?
8. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is the final authority of our beliefs and actions?
9. What must our attitude toward the Bible be?
10. How must we guard the Bible?
11. Our beliefs about Scripture refer to the original writings. But there are other editions and language translations. Why might it be beneficial to study these different editions or translations?