

## **ARTICLE 1**

**We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.**

### **1. The Term “Inspiration”**

- a. The term “inspiration,” when used to describe the Bible, means that the Old and New Testaments owe their origin to the creative work of the Holy Spirit.**

Scripture references: 2 Timothy 3:16; Job 33:4; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

- b. Scripture is a product of the creative work of the Holy Spirit.**

Scripture references: Luke 1:70; 1 Peter 1:10-12; see also Daniel 12:8-13

- (1) Although people wrote the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit determined the content and character.**
- (2) During Jesus’ life, Jesus and His followers accepted the Old Testament as the inspired authoritative Word of God, and later the early Christian church accepted both the Old and New Testaments as God’s Word.**

### **2. The Witness of Scripture**

- a. God Inspired the Old Testament.**

Scripture references: 2 Samuel 23:2; Hebrews 1:1; Matthew 15:3; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21

- (1) Christ Himself affirmed the Old Testament as the inspired Word of God.**
- (2) The apostles also affirmed the Old Testament as the inspired Word of God.**

**b. God inspired the New Testament.**

Scripture references: John 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 2 Corinthians 13:3

(1) **Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth.**

(2) **Later Paul confirmed that the Holy Spirit reveals truth.**

**3. The Ideas and Words of Scripture**

**a. God inspired both the ideas and the words of Scripture.**

Scripture references: 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16

**b. The Holy Spirit used the various abilities of the writers and their particular styles of writing to produce the Bible.**

Scripture references: Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; Hebrews 3:7; 10:15

**c. The relation of the divine and the human in the writing of Scripture is a profound mystery.**

Scripture references: 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; 2 Peter 1:21

**4. Understanding God's Message in Scripture**

**a. To understand the Bible, we need to interpret poetic and symbolic language figuratively, not literally.**

Scripture references: Psalm 17:8; John 4:24; Matthew 26:26-28

Psalms—

The Lord's Supper—

**b. To understand the Bible, we need to consider the intentions of the prophets and apostles.**

Scripture references: Acts 15:14-18; compare Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:29; compare Leviticus 17-18; 2 Peter 3:15-16

**c. To understand the Bible, we need to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

Scripture references: Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 12:9-10

(1) **As we carefully and faithfully interpret Scripture within its historical and literary context, we need to ask for the help of the Holy Spirit.**

(2) **The Holy Scripture is the instrument of the Holy Spirit.**

---

## **Discussion**

### **The Term “Inspiration”**

- 1) How is the Bible different than other literary works or human documents?
- 2) How is the Bible's inspiration different than when the Holy Spirit inspires us to create or write?

### **The Witness of Scripture**

- 3) Give some examples of how Jesus and other people in the Bible affirmed that the Old Testament is the inspired Word of God.
- 4) Give some examples of how Jesus and other people in the Bible affirmed that the New Testament is the inspired Word of God.

### **The Ideas and Words of Scripture**

- 5) What is the basis for our believing that the writings in the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God?

- 6) Explain the meaning of the phrase “verbal inspiration of Scripture.”
- 7) Does “verbal inspiration” mean that the writers had no individuality? Explain.

### **Understanding God’s Message in Scripture**

- 8) What are some factors we must consider in understanding Scripture? Give examples.

## **Prayer**

Thank You, Lord, for inspiring and giving us our guide for life—the Bible, Your Holy Word.

As we read Your Word, Heavenly Father, may the Scriptures make us wise. May they bring us to commit our total being to Christ Jesus, enable us to open our eyes to more of the wonderful dimensions of Your love, and help us to understand more clearly Your divine teachings.

May Your Word be the sword of the Holy Spirit, which cuts away evil from our hearts, molding us in the likeness of Your Son, so that each decision we make is Your will.

Help us to build our lives on Your inspired Word. May we always hold on to the blessed hope You give us in Jesus Christ and Your promise for a life full of joy with You forever.

Amen.

## **Resources for Additional Study**

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 1. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 23-84.

Bloesch, Donald G. *Holy Scripture: Revelation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

Lewis, John M. *Revelation, Inspiration, Scripture*. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman Press, 1985.

Marshall, I. Howard. *Biblical Inspiration*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Packer, J. I. *God Has Spoken*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.