

Lesson Two:

The Inspiration of the Word of God

Lesson 2 of the series:

The Word Unshaken: Defending the Bible in a Shifting World

Outline for Lesson 2: The Inspiration of the Word of God

Series Theme Statement

We must be able to back up everything we teach and preach with the Bible—what it actually says, not what we read into it, infer from tradition, or imagine sounds conservative. If it cannot be supported with chapter and verse, it must not be accepted as doctrine. The Word of God alone is the final authority for the Christian life, and its relevance, reliability, and authority stand regardless of cultural change.

Lesson Objective

To affirm and defend the doctrine of **verbal, plenary inspiration**—that every word of Scripture was breathed out by God and recorded without error. This lesson will demonstrate that the Bible is not a product of man’s wisdom but a divine revelation, perfectly preserved, eternally settled in Heaven, and fully authoritative. The believer must understand that to trust Christ is to trust His Word, and to proclaim His Word is to proclaim His very voice to the world.

I. Introduction: Christ and the Scriptures—Inseparable

Have you ever remained silent when a moment called for you to defend your faith? Whether in the workplace, around family, or online, we all know the tension of

shrinking back. But that silence may reveal more than fear—it may reveal our view of Scripture.

Jesus said in **Mark 8:38**, “*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed...*” He did not say “ashamed of Me” only, but “ashamed of Me and of My words.” This linkage is critical: how we treat the Bible is how we treat Jesus.

You cannot have the real Christ without the real Bible. If Scripture is not true, then Christianity crumbles. No virgin birth, no cross, no resurrection, no heaven, no gospel. The entire foundation of our faith is inseparable from the reliability and divine origin of the Word of God. That is why this lesson matters. We are not dealing in abstract theology—we are discussing the foundation of truth and the person of Christ Himself.

II. The Meaning of Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16 declares, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*” The Greek word is **θεόπνευστος** (*theopneustos*)—“God-breathed.” Scripture was not born from man’s imagination and then blessed by God. It is not that God took human ideas and made them holy. The Bible did not originate with man. Every word is God’s breath, spoken through chosen vessels.

Jesus confirmed this down to the minutest letter: “*One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law...*” (**Matthew 5:18**). A jot is the Hebrew letter *yod*—the smallest of letters; a tittle is a tiny stroke distinguishing one letter from another. That is divine detail. **Matthew 4:4** reiterates the same: “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*” Every word. Not just ideas, themes, or impressions.

The Bible’s claim is not that it is generally spiritual—but that it is literally, verbally inspired. This is why every line, every phrase, every word in the King James Bible carries weight, authority, and life. The very breath of God is in it.

III. False Theories of Inspiration Refuted

There are several corrupt views of inspiration today that must be rejected:

- **Partial inspiration:** Some say only parts of the Bible are inspired—those that speak of morality or salvation. But **2 Timothy 3:16** says *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”*
- **Poetic inspiration:** Others compare Scripture to human poetry—noble, moving, and emotionally inspiring. But the Bible is not Shakespearean. It is divinely revealed.
- **Conceptual inspiration:** Still others argue that God gave general ideas to the authors, who then expressed those thoughts in their own words. But that denies the clear claim of **1 Corinthians 2:13:** *“not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.”*

These are not innocent misunderstandings—they are dangerous errors that undermine the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

IV. God Gave the Words—Not Just the Thoughts

1 Corinthians 2:10–13 explains that only the Spirit of God knows the mind of God, and that the Spirit has revealed divine truth *“not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.”*

God did not merely give general truths for the apostles to interpret. He gave the actual words. This is verbal, plenary inspiration—every word, not just every idea.

This is why modern paraphrases and dynamic translations are dangerous. The **King James Version** remains the most reliable English Bible because it preserves the word-for-word integrity of the original texts. Paraphrases like *The Message* or *Good News for Modern Man* are interpretations, not Scripture.

V. Every Detail Matters—Even Spelling and Grammar

Paul built doctrine on the **singular** form of a word in **Galatians 3:16**: “*He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*”

This proves that even grammar is inspired.

In **Exodus 24:3–4**, Moses wrote “*all the words of the LORD.*”

In **2 Samuel 23:2**, David declared, “*The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.*”

In **Isaiah 51:16**, God says, “*I have put My words in thy mouth...*”

These are not paraphrases or summaries—they are exact, Spirit-given words.

VI. Unique Examples of Verbal Inspiration

Even Balaam’s donkey spoke the words of God: “*And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass...*” (**Numbers 22:28**). If God could speak through a donkey, surely He could inspire prophets and apostles.

Caiaphas, the wicked high priest, prophesied of Christ unknowingly (John 11:49–51): “*This spake he not of himself...*” Yet his words were exact and prophetic. God chose the words—even through an unbeliever.

VII. The Divine and Human Elements in Inspiration

Critics often argue: “But if men wrote the Bible, doesn’t that mean it’s flawed?” Not at all. The Bible is both fully divine and genuinely human—just as Jesus Christ is both God and man.

God sovereignly shaped each writer’s life, personality, and vocabulary. Consider Paul in **2 Timothy 4**—writing from prison, requesting a cloak and parchment. That’s Paul’s experience—but it’s still Scripture.

John 1:14 says, “*And the Word was made flesh...*”—a beautiful parallel. Just as Christ is God incarnate, so Scripture is the Word incarnated in human form, yet without sin, without error, without contradiction.

Galatians 1:15 and **Jeremiah 1:5** show us God forms His messengers before they are even born. God not only authored the message, He shaped the messenger.

VIII. The Eternal Word Settled in Heaven

Psalm 119:89 declares, *“For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.”*

God’s Word did not come into existence when Moses or Isaiah picked up a pen. It was already settled in Heaven—eternally fixed in the mind of God before the world began. **Acts 15:18** says, *“Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.”*

That includes every law, every prophecy, every psalm, every Gospel, and every epistle. The writing on earth reflects the Word already settled in Heaven.

God doesn’t improvise. He reveals what is eternally true.

IX. Statistical and Logical Evidence of Inspiration

One of the most astonishing confirmations of divine inspiration is the Bible’s **unity**.

- 40+ authors
- 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
- Over 1,500 years
- 3 continents
- Kings, shepherds, prophets, tax collectors, fishermen, prisoners
- Yet: **One unified message—redemption through Jesus Christ.**

Genesis 3:15 foretells the seed of the woman.

Revelation 22:21 closes with the grace of Christ.

Dr. Peter Stoner famously calculated that the probability of just **eight** Messianic prophecies being fulfilled by chance is **1 in 10¹⁷**. Jesus fulfilled over **300**. The unity, accuracy, and fulfillment of Scripture prove one Author—God.

X. Inspiration Necessitates Inerrancy

If God inspired every word, and if God **cannot lie (Titus 1:2)**, then the Bible **cannot err**. Inerrancy is not a theological luxury—it is the logical necessity of inspiration.

The original manuscripts contain no error, contradiction, or falsehood—whether in history, science, prophecy, doctrine, or morality.

Baptists have always believed this—not as a modern innovation, but as a foundational truth: *God’s Word is completely true in all it affirms.*

XI. The Authority of the Inspired Word

If Scripture is inspired and inerrant, then it is authoritative. The Bible is our “*only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.*”

It governs:

- **Preaching** – “*Preach the word...*” (2 Timothy 4:2)
- **Missions** – The Great Commission is based on Scriptural authority
- **Discipline** – “*Them that sin rebuke before all...*” (1 Timothy 5:20)
- **Worship** – Must be grounded in Spirit and truth (John 4:24)

This applies to the individual believer too. You are not your own (**1 Corinthians 6:19–20**). God’s Word defines our identity, morality, priorities, and purpose.

XII. A Loving but Urgent Warning

It is possible to claim to believe the Bible and still live in neglect of it. Judas followed Christ outwardly—but never inwardly. Demons believe—and tremble (**James 2:19**).

Do you love the Word? Have you read it—**all of it**? Every line? Every genealogy? Every “begat”? Every prophecy?

This isn’t about legalism. It’s about hunger for truth. If God gave us **every word**, should we not **treasure every word**?

Make it your goal to read through the Bible yearly. Not just for information, but for transformation.

XIII. Conclusion: The Bible Is the Voice of God

Summary Statements:

- The Bible is **inspired** – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* (2 Timothy 3:16)
- It is **verbal** – Every word, not just general ideas
- It is **inerrant** – Without error in the original manuscripts
- It is **eternal** – *“Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.”* (Psalm 119:89)
- It is **authoritative** – *“Man shall not live by bread alone...”* (Matthew 4:4)
- It is **preserved** – God has not lost His Word

It is not mechanical—it is **miraculous**. It is not merely informational—it is **transformational**.

Isaiah 40:8 – *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

Questions to Ponder

1. Do you believe every word of Scripture was given by God? Why does that matter for your daily life?
 2. How does understanding verbal, plenary inspiration change the way you read your Bible?
 3. What areas of your life are you tempted to govern by your own thoughts rather than God's Word?
 4. How would you explain the difference between biblical inspiration and man-made religion to a skeptic?
 5. If God truly gave us His very words, what should your response be in study, obedience, and proclamation?
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Practical Challenge for the Week

- Each day, read a portion of **Psalm 119**, focusing on verses that mention God's Word (e.g., commandments, statutes, precepts).
 - Journal: What do these verses teach you about how God speaks and how you should respond?
 - **Memory Verse:** *"Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him."* – **Proverbs 30:5**
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Closing Encouragement

When you hold your Bible, you are holding the **very breath of God** in written form. Open it with reverence. Study it with hunger. Obey it with joy. Trust it with your life. Preach it with boldness.

The Bible is not outdated—it is **eternally relevant**. Not just helpful—it is **holy**. Not just instructive—it is **inspired**.

Let us never be ashamed of Christ's Word—for the Savior said, "*Whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words... of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed.*" – **Mark 8:38**

Let God be true, and every man a liar.

Let His Word be your anchor, your sword, your compass, and your treasure.