

### The Holy Spirit- Study 3

Welcome tonight—we are now looking at part three of our Holy Spirit studies.

I am believing for a move of the Holy Spirit like I have never experienced before in my life. Esther and I have personally seen and experienced many powerful moves of the Holy Spirit, especially in our childhood years. But I believe we are going to see greater things.

These studies are to remind us of the powerful work of the Holy Spirit and as we do so allow the Holy Spirit to do something within us. We cry out today – Come Holy Spirit! Amen.

Throughout History people have become famous because of certain works of inspiration.

One example is Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). He was a noted musician who wrote much loved church music. Another was Leonardo Da Vinci, a painter, famous for the inspired work of the Mona Lisa.

So also we believe the Bible is inspired. But how can we know this not just a book written by men with their own understanding, ideas and preconceived thoughts about God? How can we know it is not just inspired like the music of Johann or the paintings of Leonardo? How can we trust this book absolutely and have complete confidence this is God's Holy Word.

We know and will study today, that this is the **Inspired Word of God** because God Himself was directly involved in the writing of the Bible. We will see today that The Holy Spirit Himself personally superintended the human authors of the books of the Bible so that the words themselves were a transcript of God's very words to mankind. To call the Bible inspired is simply to say it is God's authoritative self-revelation.

Let's start by studying how ***the Apostles witnessed that the Holy Spirit is the source of inspiration of Scripture and that He gives us teaching and understanding of scripture.***

In Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church he wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:11 ***For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*** Paul taught that no one knows a person's inner thoughts except their own spirit within themselves. I'm pretty sure that all of us in this room will be really pleased about that the person sitting next to you does not know your thoughts.

Just as one's own inner thoughts are known only to ourselves, so the mind of God is known only by God's Spirit. The Apostle Paul used here a **like for like** rhetorical strategy that was well known in the Greco-Roman world where like things are able to be known by like things. So the human knows the human, and God alone knows God. The Holy Spirit is the necessary link between God and humanity, otherwise humanity would not be able to know God. Humans are not able to perceive the reality of the divine, for God's greatness is beyond the comprehension and grasp of our finite human mind. The Holy Spirit of God, who knows the thoughts of God, has been given by God to those who love Him, so that the Spirit can reveal to us, the wisdom, truth and the Knowledge of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 ***What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.***<sup>13</sup> ***This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.*** Paul said the Apostles, received the authoritative self revelation of God directly from The Holy Spirit Himself who knows the thoughts of God and as He did so He explained the spiritual realities of God's words to them.

Paul repeated again that the Holy Spirit is the absolute necessity, is key, to understanding God, His will and His works. He is given to us so that Christians may understand what God has freely given us.

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As the gift of the Holy Spirit enabled understanding, so the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit taught Paul the spiritual truths that Paul then expressed in spiritual words. In other words the Holy Spirit enabled Paul's preaching, teaching and his writings. Paul, having been taught by The Holy Spirit explained these things to others. 1 Corinthians 2:10 ***these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God*** Paul clearly pronounced that only the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God and that God reveals this wisdom to humans by His Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ***All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** Paul taught that all Scripture is inspired by God. This is scriptures most important statement about itself, meaning that scripture is the product of God's creative breath. God spoke it - it came into being. Therefore it is God's own utterance, and as such it is properly called **THE WORD OF GOD**.

Inspired literally means that His breath expired; expired meaning to breathe out, breathed out by God. When we see the word ***breath***, the Greek being **RUACH**— meaning wind or breath, we have this reference to the Holy Spirit. This can be seen in Genesis 2:7. ***Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*** God literally expired, breathed out and gave life. The Man became a living being. The Word of God became alive.

All scripture is God-breathed. It is the activity of God; it is of divine origin. This is why the Bible is the absolute authority of God and it is therefore our authority. It does not merely **contain** the Word of God, but **it is** the Word of God; not some of it but **All** of it. The Bible is not the product of mans intellect but directly breathed out by God Himself.

Paul affirmed that because of its divine origin it is useful for all Christian living. The God breathed scriptures gives us sound instruction, it exposes and rebukes false teaching, it corrects us, *this word only occurs here in the whole of the New Testament*, and it trains us in righteousness. Its purpose is to ***thoroughly equip us for every good work.***

Galatians 1: 15 -16 ***But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.*** Paul stated that he did not seek man to give him understanding (NKJV says ***I did not consult with flesh and blood***), but consulted with the Holy Spirit. Paul did not gain his understanding from the Apostles or from Jesus himself, as he was not one of the twelve. His understanding was revealed and taught him directly by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to his apostles in John 16:12-13, ***I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*** Jesus wanted to tell His disciples much more, but could not at that time. This was now going to be done by The Holy Spirit.

The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit built on and developed the teaching ministry of the Jesus Himself. He prepared the disciples to extend Jesus' ministry to the world. He prepares us to do the same.

As Christians we cannot fully understand Scripture with our human intelligence or perception. To fully grasp the deep truths within Scripture we must consult the Person who inspired the Scriptures to be written, the Person who knows the deep thoughts of God, that is the Holy Spirit, who reveals God to us. As the Holy Spirit revealed the will of God to the writers of Scripture, the same Holy Spirit will teach us and give us understanding of the Scriptures He inspired men to write.

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2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* Peter clearly taught that the prophets spoke **ONLY** as the Holy Spirit guided them. Scripture is NOT a man's private interpretation of what man thought God was saying to him. Peter was just a simple fisherman, he had no special teaching ability, other wise he may have been a rabbi. He would never have been able to write like he did without the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. Scripture never had its origin in the will of man, it never came about as a result of someone's individual personal ideas. **Peter witnessed that all prophecy is inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is of divine origin.**

This verse clearly talks about Men who spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. We know that the Bible is full of prophecy. The whole of the Old Testament scriptures came about because men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Carried along here means as ***they were moved by the Holy Spirit***, like the wind moving a boat on the sea. The Holy Spirit filled them and carried the Apostles in the direction they were supposed to go and led them as they wrote scripture. He didn't drive them or control them, He carried them.

There is a warning we need to give here. If someone who reads scripture finds that some personal interpretation is at variance to what has been accepted down the centuries, it is quite possible it is their own personal opinion. Sometimes people are carried along by their own pre-conceived ideas about some aspect of the Christian doctrine, rather than by the Holy Spirit. God did not tell the Apostles one things and us another. Doctrine never changes. Unfortunately there are false teachers today, who openly declare they are led by Holy Spirit, who are misleading people because they are expressing their own opinion due to wrong interpretation of scripture.

So in Acts 1:15-16 we read *In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.* Peter witnessed to the other disciples how the Prophecy inspired by the Holy Spirit through David, had to be fulfilled. Psalm 41:9 ***Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.***

King David inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote this psalm some 1000 years before Christ. The prophecy was fulfilled in every detail. It was not David's personal interpretation, but divinely directed David prophesied about the Messiah, about Jesus, and that a trusted friend would betray Jesus. We know in the New Testament this this was fulfilled when Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of Silver.

Another example of a prophetic word divinely directed by the Holy Spirit is found in Zechariah 11:12-13 ***If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. <sup>13</sup> And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.*** Zechariah inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote this some 500 years before Christ. Zechariah specified how much would be paid the traitor, stating that it would be used to buy the potter's field. Judas one of the twelve betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. This blood money which was returned to the priest by Judas was used to buy the potter's field to bury strangers in.

Matthew 27:3-8 ***When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." <sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." <sup>7</sup> So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup> That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.***

## Conclusion

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As we read Prophecy, indeed **ALL** scripture, we can now understand that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers to write as if God wrote the words Himself. For over two thousand years the Bible has been impacting, transforming and empowering millions of people's lives. This is not just a book. It is God's authoritative self-revelation.

We know that the Word of God is totally inspired by The Holy Spirit. To summarize then, The Holy Spirit is the Source of Inspiration, we cannot properly understand Scripture without Him. He revealed God's will to the writers of the Bible. He gave understanding of spiritual truths to the Apostles.

We need Him today as much as the Apostles needed Him. Just as the Apostles did, we must rely with the Holy Spirit, for the real understanding of the things of God and of the spiritual truths within Scripture.

***We therefore have complete confidence in the Bible, and its origin.***

#### **Prayer**

We thank you Father for this precious gift of your Holy Spirit and we acknowledge today that all Scripture is God breathed. It is from you. Our prayer here is that we will be full of the Holy Spirit, and that as we study the Word of God that you will show us how to live the Christian life you have called us to live. We declare today that Bible is the absolute authority of God and it is therefore our authority. It does not merely **contain** the Word of God, but that **it is** the Word of God. Father, we believe that All scripture gives us sound instruction, it exposes and rebukes false teaching, it corrects us, and it trains us in righteousness. Its purpose is to **thoroughly equip us for every good work.**  
**Amen.**