

# God-Breathed: Trusting the Inspired Word of God

## Key Truth:

Scripture is the written Word of God, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is truthful, authoritative, sufficient, and trustworthy in everything it teaches. God used human authors to write His Word, yet every word is exactly what He intended. This doctrine is not peripheral—it is essential to the Christian faith.

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness...”*  
— **2 Timothy 3:16 (CSB)**

## Why This Doctrine Matters

Southern Baptists believe the Bible is “truth without any mixture of error” and that it reveals “the principles by which God judges us” (*BF&M 2000, Article I*). If we lose confidence in the inspiration of Scripture, we lose our foundation for knowing who God is, what He has done in Christ, and how we are to live.

*“It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the doctrine of the divine inspiration of Scripture. This is the point where Satan hurled his first attack: ‘Did God really say?’ (Gen. 3:1).”* – A.W. Pink

## Main Points of the Doctrine of Inspiration

### 1. God Is the True Author of Scripture

Inspiration means that God breathed out His Word through the work of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16). Though humans physically wrote the Bible, every word came from God. This is not human opinion or religious reflection—it is divine revelation.

*“The writers wrote words that came directly from God. It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matt. 4:4).*

## 2. The Holy Spirit Superintended the Human Authors

Biblical writers were not passive instruments like secretaries taking dictation. Rather, the Spirit worked through their personalities, cultures, languages, and experiences. This process is known as **concursive inspiration**: both divine and human involvement, without error.

*“Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” — 2 Peter 1:21*  
*“If God wanted Paul’s letters, He prepared a Paul to write them.” – B.B. Warfield*

## 3. All Scripture Is Inspired (Plenary Inspiration)

Not just the “spiritual” or “important” parts—all of Scripture is God-breathed. From genealogies to commandments to stories of judgment, every part is equally inspired and purposeful.

*Every word is equally inspired—even the ones in black ink, not just the red.* – Debbie Swindell

## 4. The Very Words Are Inspired (Verbal Inspiration)

Inspiration goes down to the grammar and vocabulary. Jesus argued from the tense of a verb (Matt. 22:32), and Paul argued from a singular noun (Gal. 3:16). God didn’t just inspire ideas—He inspired words.

*“The words of God are more desirable than gold, sweeter than honey” (Psalm 19:10).*

## 5. The Old and New Testaments Are Equally Inspired

Jesus quoted the Old Testament as the Word of God (Matt. 5:17–18), and the apostles recognized their own writings as Scripture (2 Pet. 3:15–16). God speaks with one voice in both testaments, revealing His redemptive plan through Christ.

## Common Misunderstandings to Avoid

***“The Bible is just a human book.”***

**Truth:** Scripture comes from God. Denying its divine source contradicts both Jesus’ teachings and Scripture’s own testimony.

***“God dictated Scripture word-for-word.”***

**Truth:** God did not bypass human personalities. The Spirit carried the writers in such a way that they truly authored the words, yet those words were God’s own.

***“Only parts of Scripture are inspired.”***

**Truth:** 2 Timothy 3:16 says “all Scripture” is God-breathed. We don’t decide which parts carry weight—God has already spoken.

***“Only the big ideas matter—not the words.”***

**Truth:** Every word matters because every word is from God. If the words aren’t inspired, the message loses its power.

## **Biblical Evidence for Inspiration**

- **Matthew 5:17–18** – Jesus upheld every letter of the Law.
- **2 Peter 1:21** – The Spirit carried the prophets as they spoke.
- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** – All Scripture is profitable because all Scripture is God-breathed.
- **1 Corinthians 2:10–13** – The apostles spoke words taught by the Spirit.
- **John 10:35** – “Scripture cannot be broken.”
- **Acts 4:25** – David spoke “by the Holy Spirit.”

*“God spoke long ago to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways” (Hebrews 1:1).*

## **Application: Living Under the Authority of God's Word**

- **Submit** to Scripture: We obey not because we agree but because it is God’s Word.
- **Proclaim** Scripture: God’s inspired Word is “the power of God for salvation” (Rom. 1:16).
- **Treasure** Scripture: Psalm 119 declares God’s Word is life-giving and trustworthy.
- **Defend** the truth of Scripture with boldness and humility.

*If the Bible is God-breathed, and it is, then every part of our lives should be shaped by it. – Debbie Swindell*

## Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that Scripture is “God-breathed”? How should that change how we read the Bible?
2. Why is it important to affirm both God’s role and the human author’s role in writing Scripture?
3. What dangers arise when people treat only parts of the Bible as inspired?
4. How does Jesus’s use of Scripture influence your own view of the Bible?
5. Why is the inspiration of every word (not just ideas) essential to sound doctrine?

## Prayer

**Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word—breathed out by You, written by faithful men, preserved through the ages, and given to Your church. Help us to love it, trust it, obey it, and proclaim it. Let it shape every part of our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**