

# The New Testament Is Verbally Inspired—A Mark That Matters

The Bible teaches very clearly that the New Testament is the verbally inspired word of God. The Bible teaches this truth so clearly that it is difficult to believe that some in the religious world deny it. However, many opt for views of inspiration that give them more latitude in interpretation—a latitude that allows them to practice as they please. The Scriptures themselves expressly deny any such latitude. Peter wrote, “20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21.

**Three views of inspiration.** Religious people usually hold one of three views of inspiration: poetic inspiration, idea inspiration, and verbal inspiration. Poetic inspiration is the idea that the Scriptures are inspired in the same way that Shakespeare or other literary figures are inspired. Man, not God, is the moving force behind the Scriptures. Believers in idea inspiration hold that God gave the ideas to men but left the words up to these men to select and use. The view that the Scriptures are the verbally inspired word of God teaches that God gave men the ideas and the exact words to voice them, making the Scriptures the exact word of God. Paul wrote, “12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.” 1 Corinthians 2:11-13

**God-breathed writings.** All Scripture and not some Scripture (sacred writings) is literally God-breathed: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The Scriptures not only come directly from God, but they equip us thoroughly to every good work. Nothing is lacking, nor is there room for human speculation and construction. According to Peter, what Paul wrote was Scripture: “16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:16. Paul’s teaching was the verbally inspired word of God.

**Exact knowledge and understanding to the readers.** Today, when we read the Scriptures we can know exactly what God breathed and what the apostles and prophets wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit: “Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.” Ephesians 3:2-5

**The exact word of God, now and forever.** Only one method of inspiration can deliver the exact word of God today—the verbal inspiration by God with the apostles and prophets recording them. That you accept the New Testament as the verbally inspired word of God is a mark that matters. The conclusion is clear: We must listen to the inspired word of God and not the words men.

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## No Scripture Is of Private Interpretation

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## Three Views of Inspiration

- Poetic inspiration—Shakespeare
- The inspiration of the idea with the words left to the writer.
- The verbally inspired word of God—ideas and words come from God

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## Exact Knowledge and Understanding to the Readers:

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**The Exact Word of God—Now and for All Time**

# The New Testament Is Verbally Inspired—A Mark That Matters

1. How is the New Testament inspired? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the three generally held views of inspiration of the Scriptures? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. How do men speak from God in 2 Peter 1:20-21? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where do spiritual ideas come from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where do spiritual words come from? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Paul's word did not come from what kind of wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Fill in the blanks: "expressing \_\_\_\_\_ truths with \_\_\_\_\_ words.
8. How much of the Scripture is God-breathed? \_\_\_\_\_
9. For what is Scripture useful? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What does "sacred writings" mean? \_\_\_\_\_
11. For what do the Scriptures equip us? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Whose writings were included in the term "other Scripture"? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How were Paul's writings inspired? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What was made known to Paul? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How was it made known to Paul? \_\_\_\_\_
16. When we read what Paul wrote, what can we understand? \_\_\_\_\_
17. To whom was the mystery of Christ revealed? \_\_\_\_\_
18. By whom was the mystery of Christ revealed? \_\_\_\_\_
19. The exact word of God in the New Testament is available to whom and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_  
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