

Searching the Scriptures / 2 / The Bible Is “God-breathed” / Part 2

Let’s look at a very important verse in the Bible regarding the nature of the Bible itself. In 2 Tim 3:16 we read, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” 2 Pet 1:20-21 further corroborates this fact, “*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost [Spirit].*”

The Old English word “*inspiration*” literally means “*God-breathed*”. It comes from a Greek word that is only used in this verse in the New Testament. It is made up of two words: “*theos*”, meaning “*God*” (from which we get our English word “*theology*”), and “*pneustos*”, which comes from a word that means “*to blow*”. That Greek word for “*blow*” is used seven times in the New Testament, so we can gain real insight into how God uses it in the Bible. For example, we find it in the parable of the houses that were built on the Rock and on the sand in Mat 7:25-27 and Luke 6:46-49. We are told that when the storms came and the wind blew only the house that had been founded on the Rock remained, and we know that the Rock is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

There is a significant difference between the foundations of the house built on the Rock and the one built on the sand. In Mat 7:24 we read, “*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.*” Now the action shifts from discussing foundations of houses to those of people because God is ultimately concerned with people. In fact, he divides the human race into only two essential categories – those whom He saves, and those whom He does not save. The Bible often refers to a true believer as a “*wise man*”. On the other hand, we read this in Mat 7:26: “*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.*” The Bible often refers to a non-believer as a “*foolish man*”.

To further understand what God has in mind about building a house we have to look elsewhere in the Bible. We have to compare “*spiritual things with spiritual*” (that is, “*Scripture with Scripture*”), as we are instructed to do in 1 Cor 2:13. For instance, Psa 127:1 mentions more about building a house, “*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*” In other words, God is the builder of the house, or the eternal church that is the invisible body of true believers. Only then will our house be built upon the Rock, as we see in 1 Cor 3:11, “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” This is referring to the Lord Jesus as the only Savior.

Previously we noticed that God “*breathed*”, or “*blew*”, out His Word, by using believers that he had chosen to pen every word He gave to the human race. Another example of “*blowing*” is found in John 3:5-9. However, in this case it concerns the work of the Holy Spirit in saving individuals. There we read, “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?*”

Of course, the “*Spirit*” is God the Holy Spirit – but how do we hear His voice? What is God’s voice? Jesus says in John 10:27, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*” Jesus also said in John 17:17: “*Thy Word is Truth*”. Throughout the Bible we see that God speaks only in His Word, the Bible. The Voice of God is the Bible; indeed, we discover in the first chapter of John that one of Jesus’ names is “*The Word*”, or “*logos*” as it is rendered in Greek. That is, Jesus Christ is the “*logic*” for God’s salvation plan.

We also learned from 2 Pet 1:21 that the Bible was written as “*holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost [Spirit].*” In 2 Pet 3:15-16 Peter is discussing what the Apostle Paul had written, and Peter says of Paul: “*...even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [twist], as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*” Here Peter acknowledges that Paul’s Epistles are equal to the other Scriptures, which in that day was the entire Old Testament.

Once again we are reminded of how God wrote the Bible – it sets forth His Words that came out of His “*mouth*”. It is perfect and complete, and He has preserved it for thousands of years. It is the only place where we can find absolute truth and God’s will for us and for this world.

Speaking of the Bible, King David declared in Psa 119:97, “*Oh how love I thy law, it is my meditation all the day.*” May it be ours as well, if God has indeed saved us. May God cause us to seek His Word as Psa 119:105 teaches: “*as a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*”