**Biblical Authority – Part One**

**THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE | THE CREDIBILITY OF THE BIBLE**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Biblical authority is the foundation distinctive of Bible-believing Baptists. The Bible is our only authority in all matters of faith and practice, because the Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself.

1. **THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE – DEFINED**

Inspiration refers to the way in which God gave us the Bible. Having revealed Himself to man, God then had this revelation recorded in written form.

* 1. **Biblical statements concerning inspiration.** 
     1. *II Peter 1:21*
        1. Human penmanship – “holy men of God spake”
        2. Divine authorship – “moved by the Holy Ghost”
     2. God was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ source of Scriptures. The word “moved” is to be borne along. The writers were consciously, willingly, carried along. As God gave the words, they wrote.
     3. The inspiration of the Bible is a supernatural miracle. God used approximately \_\_\_\_ human writers of varying occupations and education, over a span of about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years and gave us a Book with amazing unity. *II Timothy 3:16*
     4. Those who delight in the original languages tell us the Greek word translated “inspired” literally means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This Scripture clearly teaches its divine Authorship.
  2. **Inspiration defined.**

The Holy spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own literary style.

* + 1. Confluent Inspiration – Scriptures are a product of two agents, human and divine. *Acts 4:25*
       1. Illustration: A man picks up a writing instrument and begins writing on a sheet of paper. Having done so, he may then say to another, “I have written these words.” Strictly speaking, he is incorrect in what he says, for it is the writing instrument which has done the writing. Nevertheless, the instrument could not write anything unless it was moved by the hand of a man, and the words written down are not those of the instrument but the man.
       2. The physical appearance of the writing will vary according to the instrument selected. A word written with a fine-point pen will look different than the same word written in crayon, or with paint brush, or with a felt-tipped marker.
       3. In the same way, God had men write down His words. Thus, the Bible is not the word of men, because they wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Yet, like the different kinds of pens, God retained the individual characteristics of these men. He used their style, memories, intuitions, judgments, idiosyncrasies, and their research.
    2. Verbal Inspiration – The very words of Scripture are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ words.
       1. Inspiration goes beyond the concepts and message to actual words. *Matthew 24:35, Jeremiah 1:9*
       2. According to *Matthew 5:18*, inspiration extends to even letters (jot) and the parts of letters (tittle).
* Above Psalm 119: 25 is a tittle
* Above Psalm 119:153 you can see there is no tittle
* Above Psalm 119: 73 is a jot
  + - 1. Many Scriptures show the emphasis God places upon words. *Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 6:6, Joshua 8:34-35, Proverbs 30:5-6, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4, Revelation 22:18-19.*
    1. Plenary inspiration – This means extending to all parts alike. All of the Bible is inspired, and every part of the Bible is equally inspired. *II Timothy 3:16*
    2. Inerrant inspiration – Inerrant means not liable to prove false or mistaken.
       1. The Bible was written down correct in every detail. *Hebrews 6:18b, Titus 1:2c, Numbers 23:19*
       2. Such inspiration provides that the exact divine message be given. Both God’s truth and Satan’s lie are reported and recorded exactly.
       3. Inspiration does not change \_\_\_\_\_\_ into truth.
    3. Infallible Inspiration – The Bible is without error in its teaching.
       1. It is incapable of teaching deception. *Psalm 119:160, John 17:17*
       2. The terms infallible and inerrant are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference.
          1. Inerrant means without error in its recording.
          2. Infallible means without error in its teaching.
       3. Infallibility takes into account such things as the use of poetic or figurative language, the use of simile, hyperbole, allegory, parable, and symbolism.
          1. In most cases, what is inspired is authoritative, but not all cases.
          2. Some things in the Bible, though accurately recorded through inspiration, do not have the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
          3. For example, the book of Job accurately records the words of God, Job, Satan, Job’s wife, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu. But some of the statements in the book are ungodly or in direct contradiction to other statements of Scripture. They are inspired, but not authoritative. Many cults conveniently or ignorantly overlook this very important distinction.
  1. **Seven facts about the inspired Word of God.** 
     1. It is infallible – *Psalm 119:160*
     2. It is invariable – *Psalm 119:89*
     3. It is inflexible – *John 10:35b*
     4. It is invincible – *Jeremiah 23:29*
     5. It is inevitable – *Isaiah 55:11*
     6. It is incomparable – *Psalm 119:72*
     7. It is invaluable – *Psalm 19:7-9* 
        + 1. It convicts – *Hebrews 4:12*
          2. It converts – *I Peter 1:23; James 1:18*
          3. It corrects – *II Timothy 3:16*

1. Doctrine – what to believe
2. Reproof – how to believe
3. Correction – how to become
4. Instruction – how to begin
   * + - 1. It cleanses – *Psalm 119:9,11; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26*
         2. It conquers – *Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12*
         3. It comforts – *I Thessalonians 4:18*
5. **THE CREDIBILITY OF THE BIBLE**
   1. The scientific trustworthiness of the Bible makes it credible. The Bible doesn’t claim to be a book on science, although it is full of science.

* 1. The fact is that the Bible always harmonizes with established scientific knowledge.
     1. The Bible covers many everyday scientific facts without contradictions.
        1. Human anatomy – *Isaiah 59:1-13* No unknown parts are mentioned; those mentioned are correctly located
        2. Biology –
        3. Geography – *Isaiah 40:22* The earth is spherical, not flat.
     2. The Bible revealed many scientific truths before the scientist discovered them.
        1. The importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *Leviticus 17:11*
        2. The earth’s position in space – *Job 26:7*
        3. The unseen number of stars – *Genesis 22:17*
        4. The fact that air has weight – *Job 28:25*

**CONCLUSION:**

Because the Bible is the inspired word of God, it should be used as the foundation on which we live our lives. If ever we have a question regarding our faith or practice, we can always look to the Scriptures and know that God has given us His answer in the Bible—the inspired word that bears the absolute authority of God Himself.