

Why We Need The Bible Pt. 3 **“The Holy Spirit & The Bible”** **I Corinthians 2:6-16**

Introduction- *Why do we need the Bible?*

1. We need the Bible because it is the revelation of God. The Source of scripture is God the Father.
2. We need the Bible to point us to Jesus. Christ is the central theme of God’s revelation in scripture.

Today we move to the *agent* of God’s revelation in the Bible, which is *The Holy Spirit*.

The Christian understanding of the Bible is a Trinitarian. The Bible comes from God, centers on *Christ*; and is inspired by *The Holy Spirit*. A good definition of the Bible would be “*The Bible is the witness of the Father to the Son; through the Holy Spirit.*” The Bible is given by the *inspiration of the Holy Spirit*.

In our text today, Paul outlines four stages of the Holy Spirit’s work as the agent of divine revelation.

I. The Holy Spirit is The Searching Spirit, vv. 6-11

- A. The gospel is of divine origin (vs. 6).
- B. God’s wisdom is a mystery (vs. 7).
- C. Not known by “the princes of this world.” N.L.T., “But the rulers of this world have not understood it.” (vs. 8)
- D. It’s Isa. 64:4, note, it’s not heaven. (vs. 9)
- E. Only the Holy Spirit of God can search and know the deep things of God. (10-11)

Note: This shows the Holy Spirit to be personal. Only a person can engage in “search” or “research.” He has a mind, He thinks!

Note: Paul uses two pictures to indicate the unique qualifications of the Holy Spirit in the work of revelation.

1. He searches the depths of God (vs. 10).

Illus.: Same word Jesus used of the Jews in John 5:39, “ye do search the Scriptures.” God’s being is infinite.

2. Paul uses the picture or model of human self-understanding. (vs. 11)

Illus.: A dog can’t understand a man. Only a human can understand another human.

II. The Holy Spirit is “The Revealing Spirit,” vs. 12

What the Holy Spirit has come to know, he alone has made known. God has revealed unto us by his spirit (vs. 10). Note the “we” is the apostles (vs. 12).

III. The Holy Spirit is “The Inspiring Spirit,” vs. 13

The revealing spirit became the inspiring spirit. In verse 12, Paul says, “*We have received.*” In verse 13, Paul says, “*We speak or impart.*” What do they impart? That “which the Holy Spirit teaches,” vs. 13.

William McDonald says verse 13 is one of the strongest passages in the word of God on the subject of verbal inspiration. The words they spoke and wrote were the words the Holy Spirit spoke. So the actual words of scripture as found in the original autographs, were the very words of God.

Let me share two other key text on the inspiration of scripture.

A. See II Timothy 3:16. Three important claims in this statement.

1. “All Scripture,” the entire Bible is inspired by God.
2. The entire Bible is God-breathed.
3. The entire Bible is profitable. Not only to save us, but to sanctify us.

B. See II Peter 1:21. **Note:** “moved by”. **Illus.:** Acts 27:15 Scripture didn’t come by the will of man, but God did use men. The Bible like Jesus has two natures.

Let me give you a definition of *inspiration*. A proper definition must of course be formed on the basis of data taken from scripture.

“Inspiration is the supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit, who through the different personalities and literary styles of the chosen human authors invested the very words of the original books of Holy Scripture, alone and in their entirety,

as the very Word of God without error in all that they teach or imply (including history and science), and the Bible is thereby the infallible rule and final authority for faith and practice of all believers.” Norman Geisler

“Inspiration is... God’s superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.”- Charles C. Ryrie

There are several important elements that belong in a proper definition of inspiration: (1) the divine element - God the Holy Spirit superintended the writers, ensuring the accuracy of the writing; (2) the human element- human authors wrote according to their individual styles and personalities; (3) the result of the divine-human authorship is the recording of God’s truth without error; (4) inspiration extends to the selection of words by the writers; (5) inspiration relates to the original manuscripts.

What inspiration is not:

- It’s dictation.
- It must be interpreted in its natural sense. Figures of speech.
Remember the Bible has two natures.

IV. The Holy Spirit is “The Enlightening Spirit,” vv. 14-16

We must have His illumination.

“The wise Christian wastes no time trying to explain God’s program to unregenerate men; it would be casting pearls before swine. He might as well try to describe a sunset to a blind man or discuss nuclear physics with a monument in the city park. The natural man cannot receive such things. One might as well try to catch sunbeams with a fishhook as to lay hold of God’s revelation unassisted by the Holy Spirit. Unless one is born of the Spirit and taught by Him, all this is utterly foreign to him. Being a Ph. D does not help, for in this realm it could mean ‘Phenomenal Dud!’”- Vance Havner

V. The Holy Spirit “The Transforming Spirit,” II Cor. 3:18

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”