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FIVE WORKS OF THE SPIRIT IN REGARD TO THE WORD

1. **Revelation.** 2 Timothy 3:16 say's, **“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”** The Greek word translated **“inspired by God”** is *qeol/pneustoj* (*theopneustos*), from *theos-* ‘God,’ and *pneo-* ‘breathe.’ It means lit.- *God-breathed*.

Revelation is the means by which God the Holy Spirit revealed His message to the prophets and apostles. God communicated to man what otherwise could not be known, things which man could never discover by either reason or observation. While the existence of the physical world discloses the fact that there must be a Creator, the natural world by itself cannot reveal such things as the Creator's righteousness, the Creator's love, His mercy and grace, or the salvation He holds out to man. For this, God Himself spoke to man.

2. **Inspiration.** Note 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21, which say's, **“for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”**

Ancient rabbis taught that the Spirit of God rested on the OT prophets and spoke through them, using them as human mouths to speak in God's place. We speak of ‘inspiration’ as that power by which God the HS supervised and superintended the authors of Scripture so that they recorded accurately and exactly what God had to say *through* them. Divine inspiration extended to the very words-- and *all* the words-- of the original manuscripts written by those through whom God chose to speak.

When God chose a person through whom to communicate His Word, He used that person's IQ, perspective, vocabulary and experience as His channel. This is how 66 books written by more than 40 authors, spanning 1,500 years, can be so different from each other and yet be absolutely noncontradictory, and absolutely consistent in message.

3 Points of Summary on Inspiration

- 1) The authors of Scripture did not simply write what they felt like writing; they were **“moved”** or **“carried along”** by the HS.
- 2) Each person through whom the Spirit worked retained his own unique viewpoint and style.
- 3) The HS guided each writer-- [1] so that no error intruded into the original manuscripts; and [2] so that the very words were precisely the words that He wanted written.

3. **Preservation.** The Word of God tells us, in 1 Peter 1:25, that it will “abide forever.”

Only the doctrines of inspiration and preservation can explain the existence of the Bible today. The Bible is one book with one message, but to make this one book, the HS caused to be brought together 66 individual books written in three languages by more than 40 authors over a 1,500 year time span.

Today, 2,000 years after its completion, the Bible continues to be the most widely distributed book ever written. Only God could undertake to preserve Scripture, and He has promised to do just that. The Word of God will be preserved in eternity, according to Psalm 119:89-- **“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven,”** and it will last forever, **“Of old I have known from Your testimonies, that You have founded them forever,”** Psalm 119:152.

4. **Illumination.** In John 16:13 Jesus said, **“But when... the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”**

To ‘illuminate’ means- *cast light on; make clear; enlighten*. Only the HS can cast light on the Word and make it clear to man. By himself, man is blinded by Satan, and unable to understand divine truth, including *even* the Gospel of Grace-- 2 Corinthians 4:4. 1 Corinthians 2:14 say’s, **“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised,”** they are spiritually discerned.

In the work of illumination, which is His teaching ministry, the HS makes the Word understandable and applicable to the individual believer’s needs. Whether the Spirit will open our eyes when we study depends on our attitude when we approach the Word. This is why it is essential to be in a proper adjustment to the Spirit, i.e., *influenced* by Him as we study the Word.

5. **Interpretation.** 2 Peter 1:20 say’s, **“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is {a matter} of one’s own interpretation.”**

To ‘interpret’ means- *explain, or tell the meaning of*. The Apostle Peter makes it absolutely clear that there is only one *correct* interpretation of any passage in the Bible and that is the Bible’s *own* interpretation. Only by applying the laws of hermeneutics-- rules of systematic study-- can any student discover the correct interpretation of any passage. While there is only one interpretation, there may numerous applications-- ways in which a Scriptural truth, a principle, a precept, or a promise may be used in a person’s life.