**THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE**  Session 2

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**Question:** What is it about the Bible that causes it to stand alone, when other books and literature do not?

**INSPIRATION defined**: Inspiration refers to the means of the Holy Spirit to guide the human authors so they accurately composed and recorded God’s message in the words of their original writings without error. Inspiration is necessary to preserve the revelation of God. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16)

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,*

*correcting and training in righteousness. . .* 2 Timothy 3:16



**Talking it Over – Group Study:** As a group, discuss what these key words or phrases mean.

 All Scripture –

 God-breathed (inspired) –

 Useful for teaching –

 Rebuking –

 Correcting –

 Training in righteousness –

**Key Points concerning Inspiration:**

1. All Scripture is inspired. Not some but all! (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. Scripture comes from the mouth of God. It is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Scripture reveals God’s plan and will for mankind (2 Timothy 3:16)
4. Scripture did not originate in the thoughts of man. (2 Peter 1:20)
5. Scripture came through men who were carried along by the Holy Spirit in their thinking, speaking, and writing (2 Peter 1:21)
6. Scripture continues to be inspired throughout all time (Mark 13:31)

**ILLUMINATION defined:** The Holy Spirit’s ministry to the believer is to help them understand or bring to light the truth of the Bible and to apply it to life. Only believers in Christ can experience this ministry. Even though unbelievers may achieve a high level of understanding of the Bible (Example: Nicodemus) they consider what they know basically as foolishness. The purpose of the Spirit’s ministry of illumination is always to glorify Christ.

*What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,*

*so that we may understand what God has freely given us.* 1 Corinthians 2:12



**Talking it Over – Group Study:** As a group, discuss the impact illumination can have on our lives as believers. (See 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; John 16:12-15)

**Helpful Notes**: In 1816, Sir David Brewster produced an invention that has captured the imagination of children ever since. Brewster called it a kaleidoscope. Containing fragments of colored glass, the kaleidoscope reflects light in an endless variety of colors and patterns.

“And so, it is with Scripture. According to rabbinic tradition, every word of sacred Scripture has 70 faces and 600,000 meanings. “If I had to describe Scripture in a single word, it would be kaleidoscopic. You can read the same verse on different occasions, and it will speak to you in totally different ways. It reminds me of the adage attributed to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus: ‘You never step into the same river twice.’ In a similar vein, you never read the same verse of Scripture the same way twice. That is a testament to its divine Author. The Spirit who inspired the writers of Scripture thousands of years ago is the same Spirit who illuminates readers today.”

From the book, **Primal** by Mark Batterson

Application:

How have you seen the Holy Spirit’s illumination at work when you are reading the Word of God?

How will the doctrine of inspiration and illumination be beneficial for your church?



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