

# Arlington Church of Christ

**Wednesday Night**

**Bible Study**

**How did God  
give us the Bible?**

# Following the Scriptural Trail



**How did the Bible come to be? Where did the words come from and how can we know that they are accurate?**

**The Bible tells us that the words came by **revelation** and by **inspiration**.**

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**Revelation – God reveals to man things that they would not know without God telling them**

## 2 Peter 1:19-21

**We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

**God => inspires the writer => who writes down the very words God has given them**

**2 Timothy 3:16**

**All Scripture is God-breathed** (the very words and thoughts of God) **and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

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The Greek word for 'scripture' is **γραφή (Graphi)** - which means "that which is written down" and is used exclusively of the words of God.

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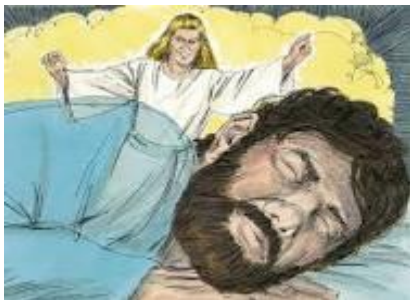
The Greek word for 'inspiration' is επιφώιτησθ - which means 'God-breathed' indicating the very words of God.



**So the scriptures represent the exact words of God – the very thoughts of God.**

**Hebrews 1:1-2** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

God spoke – He communicated through the prophets, through various ways (dreams, burning bush, etc) – but now He speaks to us through Jesus.



**Jesus fulfilled the prophecies given by the prophets through the inspiration of God.**

**Luke 24:44-45**

**He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”**

**<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.**

**God has been communicating with us throughout the scriptures. In Genesis 1, it says some 10 times that 'God said'. In Gen 2:16 – it says the God 'commanded', and in Genesis 3, God speaks curses on Adam, Eve, and the serpent because of their sin.**

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**2 Samuel 23:1-2 These are the last words of David: “The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel’s songs: <sup>2</sup> “The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.**

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**Acts 4:25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ““Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**

**God's words are true and unchangeable,  
notice what Jesus said in Matt 5:18 –**

**Matthew 5:18**

**For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear,  
not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will  
by any means disappear from the Law until everything is  
accomplished.**

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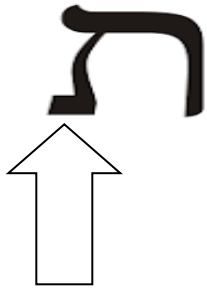
Nothing that was written in the Old Testament will pass away until all is accomplished – every word, even the smallest letter or mark was inspired by God.

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Smallest letter in Hebrew alphabet was 10<sup>th</sup> letter  
'Yod' י

The least stroke is referring to the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, 'Taw' and the tiny foot-like projection on it





**John 18:37** “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, **the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.**

**John 7:16** Jesus answered, “**My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.**

**John 6:63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. **The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.**

The word “inspiration” indicates that what is written down was exactly what God wanted written down.

**John 14:26**

**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

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**Jesus => gave the Holy Spirit to the Apostles on Pentecost => who wrote down the words the Holy Spirit revealed to them.**

## Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

## 1 Corinthians 2:13

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words

## Galatians 1:12

I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

**The Christians followed the teachings of the Apostles who were guided by the Holy Spirit and wrote the ‘scriptures’- (what God told them to write)**

**John 16:12-15**

**“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”**

## **John 14:26**

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**So the writers of the scriptures were reminded of what they had heard by the Holy Spirit and were told what they did not witness by the Holy Spirit so that it was included in what God wanted them to write.**

**But what about the writers in the New Testament who were not apostles? Were their writings inspired by God?**

**1 Corinthians 2:8-10**

**None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him—<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.**

**‘Prophecy’ is the gift of telling God’s word through revelation from Him. This gift was given to certain people by the laying on of an apostle’s hands:**

**Acts 8:18-19**

**When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money <sup>19</sup> and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”**



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**2 Timothy 1:6**

**For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**

## 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**The Bible states that the scriptures were given to 'the apostles and prophets':**

**Ephesians 3:3-5**

**that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.**

## **Ephesians 2:19-20**

**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.**

## **2 Timothy 3:16**

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**So what should our response be to these facts?**

- Study it carefully

## **Psalm 1:1-2**

**Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.**

## **Jeremiah 31:31-33**

**“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,**

**“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.**

**<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant**

**I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.**

**<sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the LORD.**

**“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.**

**I will be their God, and they will be my people.**



- **Allow it to guide your thinking and belief**

**Romans 10:3-4**

**Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.** <sup>4</sup> **Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.**

- **Obey its teachings in our daily activities**

**John 14:15 “If you love me, keep my commands.”**

**1 John 2:3**

**We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.**