

INSPIRED TRUTH

2 Timothy 3:16 ... "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

If you are paying attention you will notice that today's verse was quoted in the previous devotional about the meek inheriting the earth. One argument unbelievers make in saying the Bible should not be trusted, is that it was written by men. That is half correct. As today's verse states, "scripture is given by inspiration of God," which means that God gave, through divine inspiration, His Word to men who wrote down God's messages to us so we can read them for ourselves.

Inspiration is a cause and effect act; someone's mind is stimulated by an external influence to produce something, such as a story, song, or painting. In the case of the Bible, the external influence is God who delivers his message to us through men. Paul wrote his letters in Greek, and the word "inspired" in Greek translates to "breathed out." There is no stronger statement to repudiate the claims of unbelievers who say the Bible cannot be trusted. The men who wrote the books of the Bible experienced a supernatural event by which the Holy Spirit of God, literally gave his message to men to record with their pens and supervised their writing to prevent errors, while allowing the individual styles of those writers to be freely expressed. This is why the book of Psalms reads very differently than the book of Matthew. Both are fully truthful and accurate in their messages to us from God, but are written in different styles.

The word "doctrine," translates to teaching. The entire Bible is useful for teaching us about the character of God, his expectations for us, and how to live for him. The word "reproof" explains that the Bible reveals our sin. "Correction" follows reproof, because the Bible is a complete package. After revealing sin in our lives, it shows us how to repent and correct our way. And, finally, "instruction in righteousness," is how we learn to live according to God's instruction and to please him.

I want you to understand that when you open your Bible to read, you are not just reading stories written by men. You are reading the actual words of God that he delivered through the pens of men for us to read. I pray you will see for yourself by praying before you study your Bible. Before you read, ask God to reveal himself to you in his Word and instruct you in righteousness.

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