

When I set out to be a minister of the gospel, I became intrigued with the controversial theological issue of the inspiration and inerrancy of the Word of God. This is not to say that I was ever tempted to deny these great doctrinal truths; however, I simply wanted to know all that the Scriptures record as to how they came into being. From my early years as a fledgling student, I studied intently the verses that speak both directly and indirectly on these subjects.

My first master's thesis was on inerrancy and its implications in the formation of our Bible. After seminary I translated both Old and New Testament verses on inspiration and became more convinced that the original writings of the Scriptures are the very words of God and are indeed without error.

Early in my education, I acquired a working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, the languages in which the Scriptures were originally written. They afforded me the opportunity to sense the heart and mind of God in the great hallmark verses that related to these issues. For example, from the Greek text, 1 Peter 1:10–11 might read this way, "The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was in reserve for you, searched out and examined, seeking to know what period or time the Spirit from Christ within them was indicating as He before confirmed the sufferings of Christ and the glories after them [that would follow]."

The first book I read on the subject of inspiration was Edward J. Young's classic, *Thy Word Is Truth* (Eerdmans). With firm conviction, Young wrote, "The Bible is of the utmost importance, for as much as men of the twentieth century seem to dislike the fact, the Bible has been, all along, their teacher."¹

The next book I studied was *The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures* (Moody) written by the great scholar Louis Gaussen. With a detailed understanding of the issues involved, Gaussen wrote that the Word of God establishes "that the Scripture is from God, that the Scripture is throughout from God, and that the Scripture throughout is entirely from God."²

It was not simply the writings of great Christian scholars that moved me; the Bible itself touched my heart and soul. Scripture fascinated me with its testimony of God, His mind, and His will. In Genesis and other books, He is marvelously presented as the Author of the universe and all that it contains. The God of Scripture is pictured not simply as a great force but the Lord who loves His creatures and wishes to communicate with them.

In the Word of God, the reader is confronted with the providence of God—His ways of tender mercies but also His execution of fair judgment. Accuracy and detail flood the pages of Scripture. Half of all Bible prophecies already have come to pass just as they were uttered from the mouths of the prophets.

I fell in love with God's message that seemed to speak only to me. From this marvelous Word, I am continually learning to more and more love Him who shares His care with me and tells me of the future glory I will someday experience with Him in heaven.

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