

respects entirely active and entirely passive. God does all there; man does all there ... as Jonathan Edwards put it, "God producing all, and we acting all."

But what about the second part of this problem, that which claims that verbal inspiration logically implies dictation? If every word is breathed by God and had its origin with God, at what point does that word take on human characteristics of style, limitations of vocabulary, and such? Gausson writes:

It would ... be holding a very erroneous language to say certain passages in the Bible are man's, and certain passages in the Bible are God's. No, every verse without exception is man's; and every verse without exception is God's, whether we find him speaking there directly in his own name, or whether he employs the entire personality of the sacred writer.

The mistake has frequently been made of confusing the extent of inspiration with the mode. If we speak of *verbal* inspiration, we are speaking of the extent, not the mode. Verbal extent (i.e., that inspiration extends to the words) may be achieved by either of two modes of inspiration, the organic mode or the dictation mode. The organic mode holds that inspiration is infallible, supernatural guidance of the human faculties of chosen men. It allows for differences of vocabulary, grammar, types of discourse, and general style. The dictation mode holds that inspiration is infallible, supernatural control of the human, mechanical reproduction of divine words. It does not provide room for human differences of style, etc., since every word is dictated by God.

Both of these modes yield a verbal extent of inspiration. Both methods guarantee a Scripture in which the very words are inspired. However, since there are two modes which lead to a verbal extent, it is logically invalid to turn it around and say that a verbal extent requires the dictation mode, since a verbal extent could equally imply the organic mode. To illustrate: a flat wall may be painted with a brush or a roller. The result is the same: the wall is painted. But to turn it around and say that because the wall is painted, therefore it must have been painted with a brush, is simply poor logic! Thus dictation is not implied when we affirm that every word of Scripture has come from God.