

Scripture? Here inspiration is viewed as divine assistance given to the Biblical writers to communicate to the world the illumination which they had received in the experience of revelation. Illumination is used in this view to mean "that guidance of the minds of men who receive revelation so that they interpret what they receive as revelation." To put it another way: God is on the sending end of revelation, humans are on the receiving end; when God discloses Himself to an individual He also illumines that person's mind so that he or she can perceive God's self-disclosure as a genuine revelation.

Seen in this light, inspiration becomes a divine assistance given to the Biblical writers to communicate their fallible human witness to divine revelation.

What a depressing view! God can reveal *Himself* but He cannot communicate to man any truth or item of information concerning Himself! God can reveal *Himself*, and give us a *knowledge of acquaintance* of Himself, but He cannot communicate *conceptual knowledge* of Himself. Man can thus know God without knowing anything *about* God. Without knowing one single item of information or one single truth about God, man can know God!

And when man attempts to say something about this knowledge of God, he can say nothing about God that can be called knowledge or truth or revelation; he can only witness to his experience of God's self-disclosure. Even though God has illumined his mind to recognize the reality and meaning of God's revelation of Himself, man still cannot say anything meaningful about the content of revelation. And even though God assisted the Biblical writers in their attempts to communicate to the world their witness to divine revelation, this inspiration produces nothing more than the fallible words of human beings trying to say something about the transcendent, unspeakable, ineffable self-disclosure of God!

Again I say, what a depressing view! God does not have the power to communicate something true about Himself to man in such a way that man can grasp it! God does not have the power to infallibly guide man in committing revealed truth to writing! God can reveal *Himself* (whatever that means!), but He does not have the power to reveal to man any idea of *who* He is or *what* He is like, or what He wants us to *do*!