

(b) Biblical elements resulting from the act of Inspiration

Element #1 -- All Scripture is the Word of God

II Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed. The effect of God's breathing out of Scripture is that all of Scripture is His Word. This seeming truism takes on deeper meaning as we consider the fact that Scripture includes statements made by Satan, by demons, by ungodly men, and by godly men speaking foolishly, as well as ordinary garden-variety history. But as a result of Inspiration all of Scripture is the Word of God!

Element #2 -- All of Scripture is profitable for the complete equipping of the man of God for life and godliness.

This effect is found in II Timothy 3:16-17, where we read: "All Scripture (is) God-breathed, and (is) profitable for teaching, for refutation of error, for correction of faults, for discipline in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully qualified, having been equipped for every good work."

This matter of profitableness raises the question: Are there degrees of profitableness? If so, are there degrees of Inspiration?

Lest the question be thought frivolous, let us note two quotations from a landmark work: Dewey Beegle's *The Inspiration of Scripture* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963), pp. 140-141. Beegle writes:

Some of the great hymns are practically on a par with the psalms, and one can be sure that if Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, Augustus Toplady, and Reginald Heber had lived in the time of David and Solomon, and had been *no more inspired than they were in their own day*, some of their hymns of praise to God would have found their way into the Hebrew canon. (the italics are Beegle's)

Undoubtedly, God's Spirit spoke in this vital way to the troubled soul of George Matheson (the Scottish minister who wrote "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"). This is the kind of inspiration of which the psalms were made. There is no difference in kind. If there is any difference, it is a matter of degree.

At this point, some distinctions must be made regarding the question of degrees, as this question applies to Inspiration, authority, and value.