

If we receive the witness of Scripture to itself (which amounts to the witness of the Holy Spirit speaking in Scripture) with regard to the extent of Inspiration, we discover that with one voice the prophets, Christ, and the apostles proclaim that the entirety of Scripture, including the very words that the writers employed, were inspired by God!

e. The relevance of Inspiration for the apographs

Inspiration is a technical term that refers to the original inscripturation of revelation. That is, Inspiration is a unique act that refers only to the autographs of Scripture. Does this have any implications for apographs -- those copies, versions, and translations of Scripture that we presently possess?

If the autographs are the unique products of the special act of Inspiration, and as a result are the Word of God, true, authoritative, inerrant, and infallible; and if the apographs are not the unique product of the special act of Inspiration; then can we properly say that the apographs are the Word of God, true, and authoritative? Is it possible to say, with any conviction, that the Bible we hold in our hands or place on our pulpits are the Word of God? Can we quote from these Bibles and say, "Thus saith the Lord!"? Can we base our witness or our sermons on an apograph and speak with the authority of God?

A theological construct is here proposed to help sort out these problems.

Let the term "inspired" include two subcategories: Inspiration as an act, and "inspiredness" as a quality. Inspiration refers to the act of the Holy Spirit, operative only in the original inscripturation; "inspiredness" refers to a quality inherent in the autographs in a primary, immediate, absolute sense, but also retained in the apographs in a derived, secondary, mediate, and relative sense.

To put it another way, as a result of the act of Inspiration, the quality of "inspiredness" would be found in the autographs absolutely, and in the apographs relatively. Thus the term Inspiration would refer only to the originals, whereas the term "inspiredness" would refer both to the originals and to the copies of Scripture. The term "inspired" would then include both autographs and apographs, both the original manuscripts and copies, versions, and translations of them.

Here then is the construct, in the form of a proposal: