

## MORE THOUGHTS ON THE WORD OF GOD: SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Turn in your Bibles to *2 Peter 1:19-21* and *2 Timothy 3:16-17* where we read:

<sup>19</sup> We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: <sup>20</sup> Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost. *2 Peter 1:19-21*

<sup>16</sup> All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

What those two passages state is that there were two entities involved in giving us our Bibles. The first entity was God himself moving men to record exactly God's words as intended by God for mankind. The second entity was man himself who God used to record God's exact words. That makes God the author and man the penman. For over 30 years now, I have heard pastors, preachers, and teachers say that the King James Bible is the verbal, plenary, inspired word of God for English speaking peoples. They typically follow that statement with the statement that the Bible is inerrant and infallible. What do those terms mean?

The theologian will tell you that the word "inspiration" literally means "*God breathed*". What we mean by inspiration is that the Bible is much more than "*God breathed*" which is the literal meaning of "*inspired*". When we speak of the word of God as being inspired we mean that it is literally in-Spirited. That means that the word of God is indwelt by the Holy Ghost. That is why the word of God cannot return unto God void when it is sent forth (*Isaiah 55:11*)! What we mean by the term verbally inspired is that Holy Ghost inspiration extends to each and every word of the Scriptures and not just to the concepts and doctrines extracted from those inspired words. Truly scriptural concepts and doctrines are extracted from the Bible by rightly dividing the word of truth! Rightly dividing is the result of intensive Bible study, meditation, and the ministry of the Holy Ghost in your heart and mind. The Bible says in *2 Timothy 2:15*, *Psalms 119:99*, *John 14:26*, and *John 16:13*:

<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation. *Psalms 119:99*

<sup>26</sup> But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. *John 14:26*

<sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and

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he will shew you things to come. *John 16:13*

Those are the keys to rightly dividing the word of truth. In short, we are to live and breath the word of God. We are to esteem the word of God more than our necessary food (*Job 23:12*). The Holy Ghost is our teacher, our interpreter, and our remembrancer. The best preachers, teachers, and Christians are those that are fully in tune with the Holy Ghost by forsaking sin and yielding to his guidance. It is critical that we not offend the Holy Ghost. In *Psalms 119*, the psalmist puts much emphasis on meditation. Seven times some form of the word “meditate” is used in *Psalms 119*. We are told to meditate upon God’s precepts (twice), his statutes (twice), his law (once), his testimonies (once), and his word (once). There are only two entities in the word of God that we are told to be in awe of. One of those entities is the LORD himself (*Psalms 33:8*). The other entity is the word of God itself (*Psalms 119:161*): that written word that is both the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and the written Word that is God manifest in the flesh!

When we use the phrase “*plenary inspiration*”, we are stating that all parts of the Bible are equally inspired. No part of the Bible is any more or less inspired than any other part. What that means is that mankind cannot pick and choose that which they believe to be inspired versus that which they believe not to be inspired. The word of God is not an a la carte menu where we get to choose what we like.

When we use the phrase “*inerrant inspiration*” we mean that every fact and every detail were recorded in the King James Bible without error. There are no errors in the King James Bible. It is the written manifestation of the perfection of God the Son. Many have tried to find errors in the King James Bible only to have their arguments suffer a nervous breakdown after careful analysis of what the text DOES and DOES NOT say. An outstanding book on that subject is “*The Book Of Bible Problems*” by Gerardus D. Bouw.

When we speak of “*infallible inspiration*”, we mean that the Bible cannot be used to teach deception or false doctrine when it is rightly divided. That means that it is without error in its teaching.

Perhaps the greatest proof of the inspiration of the Bible is the fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. Approximately 27% of the Bible was prophetic when first written. Some of that has already been fulfilled. During the 24 hour period covering the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ at least 29 prophecies were fulfilled to the minutest details: some of which had been written over 1,000 years before.

What all that means is that God has given us a perfect Bible in the King James Bible. It is a perfect book with a perfect plan of salvation offered through the sinless blood of the one and only perfect Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

The word of God is not to be tampered with or corrected. You cannot correct perfection! There are at least five warnings in the Bible issued to those who would add to or take away from the word of God. Those warnings are in *Deuteronomy 4:2*, *Deuteronomy 12:32*, *Proverbs 30:5-6*, *Jeremiah 26:2*, and *Revelation 22:18-19*. Those verses state:

<sup>2</sup> Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. *Deuteronomy 4:2*

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<sup>32</sup> What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. *Deuteronomy 12:32*

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. <sup>6</sup> Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. *Proverbs 30:5-6*

<sup>2</sup> Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: *Jeremiah 26:2*

<sup>18</sup> For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup> And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. *Revelation 22:18-19*

The conclusion of the matter is: I would not even consider altering the word of God! The unbeliever that alters the word of God is condemned to the Lake of Fire!

The word of God defines itself through the use of symbols. Some of those symbols include a mirror, a seed, a lamp, a sword, a fire and a hammer, water, milk and meat, honey and the honeycomb, and bread.

### 1. A Mirror.

It is called a mirror because it reveals to an individual what manner of man he is—  
*James 1 :23-25*

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. *James 1:23-25*

### 2. A Seed.

It is called a seed because it brings forth new life in the gift of regeneration in the Lord Jesus Christ — *1 Peter 1:23*

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. *1 Peter 1:23*

### 3. A Lamp.

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It is called a lamp because it radiates the light that is necessary for guidance for the believing sinner and regeneration for the lost sinner— *Psalm 119:105,130; Proverbs 6:23; II Peter 1:19.*

105 NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. *Psalm 119:105,130*

23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life: *Proverbs 6:23*

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: *2 Peter 1:19*

### 4. A Sword.

Because it is the instrument of warfare against the hidden things of darkness and dishonesty— *2 Corinthians 4:2* with *Ephesians 6:17* and *Hebrews 4:12.*

<sup>2</sup> But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. *2 Corinthians 4:2*

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: *Ephesians 6:17*

12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12*

### 5. As Fire And As A Hammer.

The judging power of the word of God— *Jeremiah 23:29* (This is given in the context of an extended passage judging false prophet in Jeremiah 23:14-32)

29 *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? *Jeremiah 23:29*

### 6. Water.

The water of the word is God's washing machine for the sins of the world. — *John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Psalm 119:9,11*

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3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.  
*John 15:3*

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. *Ephesians 5:25-27*

9 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. *Psalms 119:9,11*

### 7. Milk And Meat.

The word of God is called milk because it gives growing power to babes in Christ and nourishing and sustaining power to mature adults in the faith — *1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1,2; Hebrews 5:12-14;*

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: *1 Peter 2:2*

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. *1 Corinthians 3:1-2*

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

### 8. Honey And The Honeycomb.

*Psalms 19:8-10; 119:103.*

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be

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desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. *Psalm 19:8-10*

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!  
*Psalm 119:103*

### 9. **Bread.**

*Amos 8:11; John 6:35, 48-51.*

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: *Amos 8:11*

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

<sup>48</sup> I am that bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. *John 6:35, 48-51*

These are some powerful symbols that testify to the power of the word of God. The riches and power of world's greatest empires cannot compare to the word of God. The word of God is the power of God unto salvation. The word of God is the power through which every good thing was spoken into existence. It is the power of creation. There is no power greater than that. The word of God convicts (*Hebrews 4:12*), it converts (*Romans 10:17, James 1:18-21, 1 Peter 1:23*), it corrects (*2 Timothy 3:16*), it cleanses (*Psalm 119:9, Psalm 119:11, John 15:3, John 17:17, Ephesians 5:26*), it conceives (*John 6:63, 1 Peter 1:23*), it conquers (*Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12*), and it comforts (*John 14:16, John 14:26, John 15:26, 1 Thessalonians 4:18*)

The preeminent chapter in the word of God about the word of God is *Psalm 119*. *Psalm 119* is the longest chapter in the Bible having 176 verses. These 176 verses are grouped into 22 separate sections consisting of 8 verses each. In Hebrew, the 22 separate sections are identified in succession from the first letter to the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet with each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Every verse in each successive section starts with the same Hebrew letter. There are 9 words that dominate the theme of *Psalm 119*. These words are way, testimonies, precepts, commandments, word, law, judgment, righteousness (right), and statute. *Psalm 119* uses the phrases "thy word(s)" 39 times, "thy statutes" 22 times, "thy law" 23 times, "thy precepts" 21 times, "thy commandments" 21 times, "thy testimony(ies)" 23 times, "thy judgments" 13 times, "the way" 7 times, and "false way" twice. Some oft repeated verses are quoted below:

<sup>9</sup>BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto*

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according to thy word. *Psalm 119:9*

<sup>11</sup>Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. *Psalm 119:11*

<sup>18</sup>Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. *Psalm 119:18*

<sup>89</sup>LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. *Psalm 119:89*

<sup>104</sup> Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup>NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. *Psalm 119:104-105*

<sup>127</sup>Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. <sup>128</sup> Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and* I hate every false way. *Psalm 119:127-128*

<sup>130</sup>The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. *Psalm 119:130*

<sup>136</sup>Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law. *Psalm 119:136*

<sup>161</sup>SCHIN. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. *Psalm 119:161*

<sup>165</sup>Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. *Psalm 119:165*