

## Some Errors Regarding Inspiration

1. **The human authors were inspired.** Even the most conservative Bible teachers sometime fall into this error. The word inspiration never refers to the human authors of the Bible, but only to what they wrote. A corollary to this is the “Genius Theory” of inspiration. It views the Bible as the result of normal human genius, and the human authors were inspired in the same way as any writer of great literature.
2. **Only part of the Bible is inspired.** That is, the parts that deal with spiritual truth are inspired by the parts that deal with history or scientific fact are not without error, and are not authoritative.
3. **The words of the Bible were dictated by God.** This confuses inspiration with the process of producing the written Word of God, that is, inscripturation. Sometimes God did dictate the words of the Bible, such as the ten commandments. But this was not the norm. Usually He allowed the human authors to use their own language skills to produce (inscripturate) the inspired text.
4. **The King James Version of the Bible is inspired, but all other English translations are not.** This error attributes inspiration to a translation rather than to the autographs of the Bible. No translation of the Bible into any language is inspired. Some who hold this view even say that the King James Version corrects the Hebrew and Greek texts!

Any view that says the human authors were inspired, or that inspiration is a process of delivering the Word of God to the human authors, or that some translation of the text of Scripture is inspired is error.

Inspiration means that God put His stamp of approval on the *original autographs* of Scripture so that it can be said that the *source* of the original writings was God Himself, and therefore they are authoritative in the same way that God’s word would be if He appeared to a person and revealed truth to him. The inspiration of Scripture is a statement as to the quality of the original writings, not a statement about the human authors or the process of writing, or the preservation of the Bible.