



The Doctrine of Scripture

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

Revelation: We have knowledge of God only because of God's initiative and activity.

- General revelation: refers to those things which every person sees and experiences, things that reveal God's existence and provide glimpses of what he is like.
 - * Creation/nature (Romans 1:19-21).
 - * Human conscience (Romans 2:14-15).
- Special Revelation: refers to everything that God has told us that we would not know apart from his direct communication.
 - * It is only through this special revelation that we learn about God's character, his will, his hopes and purposes for creation, and his plan for redemption.

Inspiration: Christians believe that Scriptures originated in mind of God, not in mind of man.

- Inspiration means that God breathed out his word so that the writers of Scripture wrote what He wanted them to write and were kept from error when doing so.
- Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20, 21 NIV)
- "Carried along" – comes from an ancient nautical term. It was a word that was used to describe ships at sea. When a ship was being moved forward by the winds and currents, it was "carried along" apart from its own power.

Authority: Christians believe that the Bible carries divine authority.

- If this is a revelation from God, if it is divinely inspired, then it has an authority over us, an authority that cannot be attributed to any other book, and an authority that can't be ignored.
- Submitting to the authority of Scripture means that we are to trust and obey God by trusting and obeying his Word.

These three beliefs about the Scriptures, that they are a revelation of God, they are inspired by God, and speak with God's authority, have been foundational to the Christian faith 2000 years.