

Inspiration

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered why you breath?

The obvious answer is that we breath so we can live and remain alive.

Yet thinking deeper, God designed us with the need to breath. He could have designed us differently. Not only did He create us with with need to breath but created an environment to meet those needs.

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Introduction

We breath in Oxygen so we can make energy from the food we eat, and we breath out the waste gas of Carbon Dioxide. Yet plants need Carbon Dioxide to create food (photosynthesis) that we eat, and they give off Oxygen. It is a beautiful cycle of God's design. Yet it reminds us that we are not self-sufficient. We are part of Creation. We eat and breath and if we don't, we die.

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Introduction

Our ability to breath not only anchors us in Creation but gives us several unique abilities.

When we breath in, not only do we get oxygen, but God has given us the gift of smell.

Many things smell and taste good – other things not so much...

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Introduction

Perhaps the greatest benefit of breathing is our ability to communicate.

You are able to hear my voice because I have set up sound vibrations that are carried out of my body on my breath.

You hear and make sense of those vibrations because God has designed you with ears and brains that can put meaning to those vibrations.

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Though we will look at the idea that God Breathes, we need to clarify a few points.

God breathes **NOT** because He is part of Creation. The Bible is clear that He is self-existent. He does not need to breath to remain alive.

Creation exists because God is alive and is sustaining it. In truth, it is here because God “spoke” (breathed) it into existence.

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Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The term “inspiration” is misunderstood and misused in today’s culture.

From the world’s perspective, inspiration refers to some shock of creative or emotional energy. People talk about how Mary Shelley was “inspired” to write *Frankenstein* in a dream, or a painter being “inspired” to paint a beautiful landscape. It is used of people finding an “inspiring” view nature. Though I understand what people are trying to communicate, the world’s view of “inspiration” pales in comparison to the real thing.

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Today, the Bible has lost its reverence and relevance in modern society. When we state that the Bible is “inspired” it is placed on the same level as *Frankenstein*.

There is an increased view of skepticism toward the Bible as the Word of God.

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The Barna group stated “More people have more questions about the origins, relevance and authority of the Scriptures ... the steady rise of skepticism is creating a cultural atmosphere that is becoming unfriendly—sometimes even hostile—to claims of faith. In a society that venerates science and rationalism, it is an increasingly hard pill to swallow that an eclectic assortment of ancient stories, poems, sermons, prophecies, and letters, written and compiled over the course of 3,000 years, is somehow the sacred Word of God.” With each passing year, the percentage of Americans who believe that the Bible is “just another book written by men” increases. So too does the perception that the Bible is actually harmful and that people who live by its principles are religious extremists.”

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The term that Paul uses and is translated “**inspiration of God**” is “**theopneustos**.” The word “theo” refers to God and is used in “Theology” which is the “study of God.” “Pneustos” means “breath” or to “blow out.” Many of the newer translations state “All Scripture is God Breathed...” which is a better translation. In this understanding, we realize that it was not the writers of Scripture that were “inspired” but the very Word’s they were writing. When we state that the Bible is the “Word of God” we are literally stating that we believe that each word in the Bible originated from the heart of God, written by men who were guided by the Holy Spirit to write down exactly what God wanted to communicate to us.

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Peter states it this way:

2 Peter 1:20-21

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

This means that the writers of Scripture did not “make things up” – that is the world’s understanding. The skeptics claim that the Bible is nothing more than the ideas of misdirected religion fanatics. Some even claiming they were under the influence of drugs or mental illness. Nothing could be further from the Truth!!

This verse explains how the Holy Spirit moved in the writers of Scripture so that what they communicated was from God Himself. God used the human personality of the writer to express God’s Truth in their own words. The Holy Spirit supervising so that what they wrote was Truth and free from error!

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Therefore, when the prophets spoke, they spoke NOT on their own authority, but as stated over 3800 times “God said” or “thus says the LORD.” The writers of Scripture were making it clear that what they were declaring was not their own message, but the message God gave them to declare to their hearers.

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In ancient times and today, there are many who are claiming to receive revelation from God. 1 John 4:1 states, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” The question that one MUST ask is “how do you know who is truly “speaking God’s Word?”

1. Is it True? Prophets spoke short and long term. If they claimed something was going to happen, and it did not, then they spoke from their own understanding. The consequence for falsely declaring one’s ideas as the Truth of God was death.

Deuteronomy 19:20-22

But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ — ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

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Ezekiel 26:2-5

“Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, ‘Aha! She is broken who *was* the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.’³ “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I *am* against you, O

Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up.⁴ And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.⁵ It shall be *a place for* spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,’ says the Lord God; ‘it shall become plunder for the nations.

Ezekiel penned these words 600 years before Alexander the Great devastated the great city of Tyre, scraped the dirt off her rocks to build a causeway to destroy their island stronghold. Fishermen still dry their nets on the barren rock just as God said.

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Many of the prophecies of Scripture have been fulfilled so exactly that the skeptics and liberal theologians claim that they had to be written after the fact. This declares their low view of Scripture and a denial that a God who knows all of time could reveal it to man.

Yet time and again, archaeology declares God True and man a foolish liar. For many of these events, fragments of Old Testament Scriptures are found in ruins of cities and prove that these prophecies were written hundreds of years before the event.

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If God is so exact in His declarations of the battles in Daniel that correlate perfectly with history, why do so many theologians today try to explain away the events that God states will take place in the future like the Tribulation period and Thousand-year reign of Christ.

It may sound simplistic, but if God's revelations have been fulfilled so perfectly in the past, I will choose to put my trust in the things He says about the future. I would rather stand before God and have Him ask "Why did you take My Word so literally?" rather than "Why did you try to explain it all away?"

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Though Scripture was written over a period of 3 thousand years and some 40 authors, it has been compiled today into our Bible. Godly men through much prayer examined each book put forward. Each book was carefully scrutinized as to if it was truly inspired. The 66 books in your Bible passed the test historically, prophetically, and authored by or in association with an Old Testament prophet or New Testament apostle. All have been proven genuine and there are **NO MISSING** books. However, there is a large pile that were rejected having been proven false.

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2. The second way you should test someone claiming to speak for God is to test what is being said against the body of known Truth.

God does not lie, nor does He mislead. Deception is the equivalent of lying. God will complete and do all that He has said.

Society does not like what God has said. The Bible is being attacked for society rejects God's truth about man, salvation, morality, government, holiness, evil, and a judgment to come.

It does not matter what the world says or does. Truth is not based in popular opinion, but in the word and character of God!

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We need to be like the Bereans who listened to Paul and then went back and tested his teaching against the Scriptures.

Acts 17:11

These [the Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

There are many false teachers on TV and the radio. Do not be led astray by false doctrine, but test what they say against Scripture.

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The Church has held to verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture. This is a fancy term but basically means that the Church holds that every word not just the thought was guided by God. All parts of Scripture are equally the Word (or Breath) of God.

This means that every word in the Bible is there because God wanted it there.

Jesus stated:

Matthew 5:18

For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot [smallest letter] or one tittle [smallest pen stroke] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Jesus affirms that not only every word but every letter in those words are divinely inspired.

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Let's return to our verse. **ALL** of Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. God gave it to declare **Doctrine** (that which is true and right).

It is also profitable for **reproof**. In a world that calls good evil and evil good, it is Scripture that confronts us with sin and our need to change.

God did not leave us in despair, but Scripture is for **correction**. It tells us how to make it right. Finally it is for **instruction in righteousness**. God tells us how to live right and profitable in this world. God wants us complete and thoroughly equipped to serve Him!

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So What ...

The world we live in devalues the Word of God, rejects truth and holiness while it embraces evil. It should not be surprising that the Bible and Jesus are attacked and rejected. It reminds us that there is a spiritual war raging around us.

Let us understand that the Bible is literally the Breath of God communicating Himself, His character, His expectations, and what He has done and will do to and for mankind. Let us value and respect it by reading, studying and applying it to our lives.

Many are seeking truth, looking for something real, may they see its reality by our very lives.

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