

terms which are more specific: "inspiration" and "inspiredness." "Inspiration" was defined as "that special act of the Holy Spirit by which he guided the writers of the books of sacred Scripture, so that their words should convey the thoughts he wished conveyed, should bear a proper relationship to the thoughts of the other books of Scripture, and should be kept free from error in thought, fact, doctrine, and judgment." In brief, inspiration is the supernatural act of the Holy Spirit by which God's Word was inscripturated. "Inspiredness" was defined as "a unique 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." In brief, "inspiredness" is a quality resulting from the act of inspiration. Inspiration refers only to the autographs of Scripture; "inspiredness" refers both to the autographs and to the apographs of Scripture. Thus under the general term "inspired" I included both the originals and the copies of Scripture. The originals were inspired in two senses: they were the product of the act of inspiration; and they were marked by the quality of "inspiredness." The copies were (and are) inspired in only one sense: they were (and are) marked by the quality of "Inspiredness." This theological proposal, if it could be supported, would provide us with a basis for the claim that the copies, versions, and translations which we have in our possession are in truth the inspired and authoritative Word of God (inspired in the sense that they would be characterized by the quality of "inspiredness"). But can it be supported? Permit me to quote from that 1977 proposal:

In II Timothy 3: 15, we discover that Timothy had known from childhood the holy Scriptures which were able to give him the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. These were the same Scriptures which, in verse 16, Paul says are God-breathed (or inspired) and profitable to adequately equip the man of God. Now when Paul spoke of the holy Scriptures which Timothy had known from childhood, of which Scriptures was he speaking? If II Timothy was written in AD. 63, and if (for argument's sake) Timothy was only 25 years old at the time, then Timothy would have been born in A.D. 38, eleven years before the first book of the New Testament Galatians was even written, in A.D. 49. Timothy had been raised in Judaism by a Jewish mother. The "Scriptures" on which he had been nourished were undoubtedly those of the Old Testament. Now we must pointedly ask, What Scriptures of the Old Testament did Timothy's mother and grandmother have in their synagogue (or perhaps, if they were very fortunate, in their possession) -- the originals or copies? The overwhelming probability is that they were copies -- apographs. Yet Paul says that these apographs are able to give the knowledge of salvation (verse 15); and he goes on to say that all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable. It would not have made a great deal of sense for Paul to have said that the Scriptures which Timothy did not have -- the autographs were God-breathed and profitable to equip him for every good work. I believe that Paul was saying that the Scriptures which Timothy had were God-breathed and profitable to equip him for every good work. That is, I believe that the copies of the Old Testament books available to Timothy in AD. 43 (when he was, say, five years old), and the copies of those New Testament books which had thus far been written, put into circulation, and made available to Timothy in AD. 63 -- in other words, whatever books could properly be called Scripture -- were inspired, in the sense that they carried in them the quality of "inspiredness."

In John 10:35 Jesus referred to Psalm 82, argued for the propriety of calling himself the Son of God on its basis, and said "the Scripture is not able to be set aside." Now if not one truth of Scripture can be set aside, nullified, or omitted, to what Scripture was Jesus referring? To the autograph of Psalm 82? Or to the copies