

Revelation applies only to those parts of the Scripture which tells of God's presenting new ideas to the minds of the writers. Inspiration however, applies equally to all parts of the Bible. There are no degrees in inspiration. Every part of it is equally inspired. Inspiration means simply that the writers have been kept from error of thought, of doctrine, or of judgment in the presentation of the material which they have written under the direction of the Spirit of God. The words used are from their own vocabularies, the style of expression is their own. God has directed so that their works should fit in with the works of other inspired writers and He has kept them from putting down on paper the many erroneous ideas which each of them had. Thus revelation refers to ideas and inspiration refers to words. It should not be necessary to speak of verbal inspiration, for any true inspiration is inspiration of the words, so that these words may adequately express the desired ideas. There is much confusion caused by the fact that the word inspiration is commonly used in various senses. In the simplest usage inspiration is simply a drawing of breath into the lungs. From this it has come to mean the reception of an exalted mood or of a wonderful idea. These uses however are entirely foreign to the technical use in Christian theology as applied to the Scriptures. There it denotes a particular action of the Holy Spirit in keeping the writer from error in his setting down all that which God intends should form a part of the Holy Scriptures.

One day I was riding on a train and a foreigner came to me and asked me to explain to him the meaning of the word refrain. I said that when one sings a few lines of a song, and then a few more lines, and then a third group of lines, and then repeats the second group and continues to insert this group of lines after each new stanza this is called a refrain. The man looked puzzled, and did not seem altogether satisfied. A little later I saw the reason for his bewilderment when I saw a sign at the other end of the car which requested passengers to refrain from putting their heads out of the windows.

Thus as the word refrain was used here in two entirely different senses and only confusion is created by attempting to compare them, the same is true in the various uses of the word inspiration. Recently a godly minister said that