

inspiration of the scriptures, it's one particular meaning of inspiration which is just as different from any other meaning of inspiration as the word lightning is different when we say that (1) it's entirely different (1 1/4)

Well, now I have a little definition here of inspiration, which I'll read rather slowly. Some of you might want to write it down. It's got quite a few words in it but I think it conveys fairly well what the Christian church means by inspiration of the scriptures. It begins this way: "Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit, whereby He guided the writers of the Scriptures so that their words should convey the thought He wished to say, ~~it had~~ should bear a proper relation to the other inspired books, and should be free from error of fact, of doctrine, and of (2 3/4) ~~suggestion~~ ^{judgment,} ."

Now this definition is fairly long but I think every word of it is fairly important. It is a special act then which the Holy Spirit has performed. It is an act which related only to the Scriptures, it is entirely different not only from any other use of the word inspiration, but from anything else which the Holy Spirit ever has done or ever does do. It is something which is not the giving of new thoughts to the writer. That's revelation. You notice we said here, the words should convey the thought he wished to say. It deals then with the writing down of that which it is God's intention should be part of God's revelation to us. And perhaps the major part of the definition is the last phrase, there is a tremendous negative there in punctuation. It isn't dictated in the words you are going to put, it is guiding you, leading you, as you express the ideas that you have that He wishes included in God's Word, but it is guiding you in such a way as to keep you from putting down, by direct statement or by implication, errors of fact, of doctrine, or of ~~suggestion~~ ^{judgment,}. I think a very large part of the meaning of inspiration is negative.