

if you take three or four words out of context and try to insist this particular word must mean exactly this, and we don't need to look at other parts of the Bible to interpret it. That is not what inspiration means. Inspiration means a sentence in relation to context, interpreting in view of the whole scripture is what God wants us to know. It is verbal, but that doesn't mean that the words are used in a way in which human words are not properly used. I don't think God limited himself in giving us a scripture in human words, but made us limited creatures. He created us as limited, fallible human beings and he has to use instruments which can reach these limited people, and the instrument that he uses is human words which are difficult to use but within the limitations of human words, the Bible is infallible. That is, it is free from error but we must ~~consider~~^{interpret} it carefully and not think we can take three words out of context.

I remember what a shock there was a few years ago as we drove to hear one of the greatest evangelical preachers in the country, and here a great sermon which was very helpful in expressing a great point of emphasis but which began in a way that I thought more than overcame the good which was done. He preached on the power of saying no, and he took for his text a verse in Judges 4. Thou shalt say no, and he preached on the power of saying no, and ~~defining~~ declining temptation. But how much better his sermon would have been if he'd said I'm not going to talk about the Bible today, I'm going to give you something that I think is important. Instead of making out that he was expounding the Word of God, when he gave the exact opposite of what that particular passage contained, it was Judges 4 from which he was quoting, where Sisera, that wicked heathen enemy of the people of God, after Barak was victor over the forces of Sisera, Sisera fled, and as he fled he came in the valley there to the tent of Jael the wife of (4 1/2)