

The final step in inspiration is that as the writers wrote that material which it was God's intention should form part of His Divine word to be the guide for His church through all the ages to come, he kept them from error in the selection of the words they would use and their selection of the ideas which would be included in the book.

The writers of the Scriptures were fallible men. They had many erroneous ideas in their minds. They observed many things falsely. They made mistakes just as you and I do. They had all sorts of confused ideas on many points. But they had certain ideas that God had definitely revealed to them and they had certain facts which they had clearly observed. God led them in their writing to put these ideas down which He had caused them to receive in order that they should be part of His word and to keep them from putting down or implying the erroneous ideas which were in their minds. This is the fourth and in some ways the most characteristic element of inspiration. An element of avoidance, of erroneous ideas in the minds of the writers.

Thus part of the Bible - Thus many parts of the Bible contain ideas that God directly revealed to the writers. Other parts of the Bible contain the observations which the writers made, or the meditation which they had over what they saw. But all parts of the Bible are kept from error by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and thus every part of the Bible becomes a revelation to us of the mind of God.

It is necessary to make a few comments about the result of inspiration. It is very easy to get a false idea about verbal inspiration. It is easy to think that verbal inspiration means that the Bible consists of magical words different from any other human words. This is not the case at all. Human words were used in the Bible. The vocabulary of the writers of the Bible were used. What gives the word meaning? ~~The fact that it is understood in~~ It is the fact that it is understood in certain ways by the people of a certain - speakers of a certain language or the people of a certain community. The meaning of words vary from time to time. In order to learn what words mean we have to learn what the speaker and his listeners understood them to mean. It should be stressed that every word is a circle not a point. There are various possibilities of interpretation of words. Human language is not a mathematical set of formulas. It ~~deals with~~ deals with