

PNEUMATOLOGY: DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PART 5

INSPIRATION, PART 2

The word translated as “trance” is ἔκστασις meaning a trance, sacred ecstasy or rapture of the mind beyond itself when the use of the external senses are suspended and God reveals something in a peculiar manner. This word is used only two other places in the New Testament, Acts 11:15 and 22:17, and another Greek word is used when “vision” is in the English text. This word translated “trance” has a particular meaning beyond the simple act of seeing something which “vision” defines. The point is God used this to provide Spirit inspired revelation.

Because we believe the Bible is the very Word of God, we are duty bound as Christians to believe all it says because it is truth, and we are to know it and we are to live it. If the Bible is less than truth in any respect, in the smallest matter, then we are no longer obligated to it because it is then less than truth and cannot be the Word of God. If this book is less than truth, then we are all wasting our time being here every Sunday morning and learning what it has to say. All the time the pastor and I and every other doctrinally sound Bible teacher spends writing lessons and teaching is a waste of time if this book is untrue. But it isn't and that's why we do it. It is priceless truth. It was inspired by the Spirit of God and written by faithful men God used to present His truth to the world. Please remember that the doctrine of inspiration applies to the original writings penned by the original authors. What we have today are copies of those original books. We know there are some copyist errors and some grammatical and spelling issues but we also know by virtue of the manuscripts that we do have that the originals are faithfully duplicated and reliably accurate in all matters of faith and doctrine.

It is not a stretch to note that every heretical cult adds to or takes away from the Bible in one way or another and misinterprets it in key areas. Oneness Pentecostals not only redefine God to deny the Trinity, the practical result of their doctrine on tongues makes speaking in tongues a requirement for salvation. Mormons have added books to the Bible including *The Book of Mormon* and *The Pearl of Great Price*. Joseph Smith reportedly thought he was receiving new revelation from God when he wrote them. Christian Science adds the revelation supposedly given to Mary Baker Eddy. Seventh Day Adventists fail to understand dispensational distinctions and thereby place themselves under the Law which is a denial of the truth of parts of the New Testament Scriptures.

These cults consistently elevate the wisdom and teaching of men over and above the Scriptures. It may well be that these people are receiving revelation but it is false revela-

tion and is from the adversary and not from God. No one is receiving revelation from God today.

Because God is truth, His message to us must be accurate and reliable. Further, isn't He perfectly capable of seeing to it that His words are accurately preserved throughout the ages so that successive generations of people will know Him? Some people object to that because God did not preserve the originals and He was certainly capable of doing that but He chose not to and that is His business and not ours. Most theologians suspect He didn't preserve the originals because He knows the heart of man and He knows they would be turned into idols. Biblicists are already called "bibliolators" by those who hold to a less than inerrant view of the Scriptures.

Without the inspiration ministry of the Holy Spirit, we would not know the things revealed to us within the pages of the Bible. We would have a vague notion of God that is available to all via general revelation but we would not know the personal characteristics of God that have been revealed to us. We wouldn't know Christ without the inspired Scriptures. We wouldn't know how to be saved apart from the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit that went into writing it.

We need to understand the concepts of verbal and plenary inspiration. Verbal inspiration means that "every single word written in the original language by the authors was under the sovereign direction of the Holy Spirit of God, and that the very word that He wanted recorded was recorded so that we have an accurate and trustworthy Book to which we can come to know truth" [Pentecost, p. 47]. Plenary inspiration means that "the Bible, in its entirety, was inspired by and is the Word of God" [Pentecost, p. 47].