



1. Link One (2 Parts)

a. **Revelation / Inspiration**— The **receiving** and the **recording** of God's Word without error.

Revelation deals with God making His truth known to humankind that would otherwise be unknown, Deuteronomy 29:29, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

The Bible speaks of two kinds of revelation:

1. **General Revelation** – This speaks of God's glory (Psalm 19:1--); power (Romans 1:19-20); His divine nature (Romans 1:19-20); goodness (Acts 14:17), etc. Its purpose is to provide people with sufficient light about God to make them responsible (John 1:9; Romans 1:18-32; Acts 14:17)
2. **Special Revelation** – This revelation is specifically Jesus Christ, the living Word, (John 1:1,14; Hebrews 1:1-2), and in the Bible, the written word. Its purpose is to rescue sinners and to glorify God. Because the Bible is God's Word, it is **inerrant** in its original autographs. Inerrancy means that it is given to man without error and is **infallable** (useful, trustworthy, and true)

b. **Inspiration** deals with the transfer of that divine truth by divine influence in written form, 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Incorrect Views of Inspiration

1. The Natural (Intuitive) View – This view recognizes only the “human” side of inspiration. Because it is the product of man, it must reflect human error. It does not recognize the inerrancy of Scripture. This view sees biblical inspiration as a heightened sense of one's own innate gifts and abilities, much like Beethoven was an “inspired” composer or Shakespeare was an “inspired” writer.
2. The Conceptual (Dynamic) View – This view adheres to the inspiration of the concepts or ideas expressed in the Bible. It does not pertain to the individual words and views inspiration in terms of broad brush strokes.

3. The Existential View – This view makes inspiration highly personal, subjective, and subject to change. The Bible is not viewed as objective truth but must yield ultimately to our own life experiences.
4. The Dictation View - This view adheres to the understanding that God dictated every word to the human authors making them little more than mechanical robots much like a court stenographer.

Inspiration, The Correct View - Inspiration is the process whereby God so directed the human authors of Scripture, without negating their own individuality, personal interest, and writing style, that God's complete thought toward humankind was recorded without error.

A consideration of 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God...”

The uniqueness of “God-breathed” -

Related Terms

1. **Verbal** – Inspiration relates to the actual words recorded, not merely “concepts.”
2. **Plenary** – Plenary means “full” or “complete.” Inspiration relates to **all parts** equally. Some Scriptures, then, are not “more inspired” or more authoritative than others!

Related Scriptures

1. Matthew 5:18 - “Verbal, Plenary” was the view of Jesus
2. Galatians 3:16 - “seed” vs. “seeds”
3. 1 Corinthians 7:12 – Paul, not Jesus, so we can discount it...right???

2. **Link 2 – Transmission**

Transmission is the copying as accurately as possible the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts and their copies.

Care of the Old Testament Scribes (Copyists)

Principles of Determining Historical Accuracy

- a. Internal Evidence – What the Bible says about itself
- b. External Evidence – What others (outside the Scriptures) are saying
- c. Bibliographical – Evidence that seeks to determine 1) the number of ancient manuscripts available of the document, and 2) the time span between the oldest document and the actual event

Applying the Bibliographical test with other pieces of Ancient Literature:

<u>Classical Writing</u>	<u># of Manuscripts</u>	<u>Time Span</u>
Plato (Tetralogies)	7	1200 years
Caesar-Gallic Wars	10	1000
History of Thucydides	8	1300
Tacitus – Annals & History	2	900/1100
Aristophanes	10	1000
History of Herodotus	8	1300
Aristotle (Any of one work)	5	1400

Let's compare the New Testament:

Number of Manuscripts – Between the Greek, Latin, and other versions, there are over 14,000 manuscripts in existence

Time Span of the Writings

John Rylands	c. 130 AD
Chester Beatty Papyrus	250 AD
Bodmer Papyrus	200 AD
Codex Vaticanus	325-350 AD
Codex Sinaiticus	c. 340 AD

If all the Bible was destroyed along with all the ancient manuscripts, the entire Bible could be re-constructed except for 11 verses!

HOW? This would be possible because over 36,000 verses are quoted by church fathers between 150-200 AD!

3. Link 3 - Translation

Translation – Translations seeks the most accurate rendering of the original language into our own language

Translations of at least part of the Bible have been made into more than 2,530 languages, including complete Old or New Testament in 1,715 languages, including 55 sign languages and the complete text of the Bible in 475 languages as of December, 2011.

Wycliffe Bible Translators noted that 1,223 language groups have access to the New Testament in their native language, as of 2011.

4. Link 4 – Interpretation / Illumination

Discovering what the biblical author meant by what he said and putting that meaning into contemporary equivalent expressions.

This science and art of biblical interpretation is called hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is important because it is the foundation upon which doctrine is determined and actions take place, **John 8:32**

Foundational Principles:

- a. A text may have several principles and many applications, but **only one interpretation.**
- b. Interpret Scripture **literally**, that is, the interpretation used in the normal, ordinary, or usual sense of writing or speaking. It does not discount the use of figurative language.
- c. Scripture interprets Scripture

- d. Context is critical
- e. The Progress of Revelation
- f. Cross References and Parallel passages

5. Link 5 – Application

Application is the wisdom and effort to take the Word of God and making it relevant to our lives so that change in behavior takes place.

We can be convinced of and committed to the first four links but if the link of Application is removed from the process, divine communication ultimately breaks down!

Application takes place when the will is yielded or surrendered in humble obedience to the Word of God as directed by the Holy Spirit. **Illumination** should lead to **Application** and **Transformation**.