

Difficult and Hard to Understand Passages

The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures

Within the world today, we find ourselves pulled primarily in two distinct directions:

- a. Those of us who accept the divine revelation of the Holy Spirit-inspired Word of God.
- b. Those “natural” or “carnal” people who view the scripture more as a collection of the religious traditions of men. (myths, legends, folklore)

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John 20:27-29

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? ***Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.***"

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Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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Our faith relies, and **must** be dependent upon, the absolute flawless harmony between each of the 27 books of the NT!

This belief hinges on the absolute uniformity found with the written word of God. Any portion of scripture which is inconsistent, or in conflict with, any other portion of scripture, will do irrevocable damage to our belief in the doctrine found therein!

Thus, effectively nullifying our faith!!

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Let's continue our study with a review of a vital passage in the apostle Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth.

The Corinthian church was divided over who followed Paul, Apollos, Cephas, etc.

(I Corinthians 1:10ff)

The essence of Paul's discourse comes in chapter 2:1-13. Although a long passage, it is enormously foundational and warrants our review as we begin our study of the Inspiration of the Scriptures:

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I Corinthians 2:1-13

¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

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I Corinthians 2:1-13 (cont.)

⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

⁵ so that your faith **would not rest on the wisdom of men**, but on the power of God.

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I Corinthians 2:1-13 (cont.)

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, ***not of this age nor of the rulers of this age***, who are passing away;

⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

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I Corinthians 2:1-13 (cont.)

⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

⁹ but just as it is written,

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,

AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

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I Corinthians 2:1-13 (cont.)

10 For to us ***God revealed them through the Spirit***, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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I Corinthians 2:1-13 (cont.)

¹² Now *we have received*, not the spirit of the world, but *the Spirit who is from God*, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, *but in those taught by the Spirit*, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

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Some important notations about this passage:

- 1. It must be remembered that Paul was a scholar!
Educated at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)**
- 2. He renounced the trickery and devices of
“orators” and simply preached the gospel!
(verse 2-4)**
- 3. He did this so the faith of the hearers was not
reliant on the wisdom of men, but on the Power
of God! (verse 5-6)**

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Some important notations about this passage:

4. He spoke the wisdom of God revealing the “mystery” which had been hidden from all men! (verse 7-9)
 - a. A mystery which had been hidden from man
 - b. It was formerly hidden in the counsel of God
5. God revealed the mystery for Paul to share only through the Holy Spirit! (verse 10)

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Some important notations about this passage:

6. The only way to know God is through the revelation of God! This was only given through the Holy Spirit to the apostles! (verse 11)
7. The teachings which Paul gave the church in Corinth were not his words, but rather words which the Holy Spirit gave him! (verse 13)

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Jeremiah 1:5-9

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

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Jeremiah 1:5-9 (cont.)

6 Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD!
Behold, I do not know how to speak,
Because I am a youth."

7 But the LORD said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because
everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all
that I command you, you shall speak.

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Jeremiah 1:5-9 (cont.)

8 “Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

9 Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

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II Samuel 23:2

**2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.**

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Exodus 4:10-12

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

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Exodus 4:10-12 (cont.)

11 The LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

12 Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say.”

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II Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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II Peter 1:21

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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John 17:8

8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

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Mark 13:11

11 When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit.

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I Corinthians 2:13

13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

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I Corinthians 14:37

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

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Acts 2:1-4

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

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Acts 2:1-4 (cont.)

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

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Ephesians 3:3-5

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

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Ephesians 3:3-5 (cont.)

⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

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Our Conclusions:

1. More than 2,000 times the Scriptures assert the fact that the edict spoken was issued directly from God!

In our text today, the following writers are on record as making this great proclamation:

Jeremiah, Samuel, Moses, the Apostle Paul, the Apostle Peter, the Apostle John, Luke, and Mark (both writers of a gospel)

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Our Conclusions (cont.):

2. Paul tells us the “natural” or “carnal” man will not accept the inspired words.

I Corinthians 2:14

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

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Our Conclusions (cont.):

3. The NT writers make it abundantly clear they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and their words are those of God.
4. As believers, we accept the Bible as the infallible and inerrant word of God! Matters concerning its character, contents, and origin are of the highest importance to our faith!

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Our Conclusions (cont.):

5. Our faith and belief hinges on the absolute consistency found within the written word of God. Any portion of scripture which is inconsistent, or in conflict with, any other portion of scripture, will do irrevocable damage to our belief in the doctrine found therein!

Thus, effectively nullifying our faith!!

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Our Conclusions (cont.):

6. In I John 4:6, the apostle makes it clear that followers of God “listen” to the writers of the NT. Those who do not, are not “from God!”

⁶ We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.