

speaking about the Bible that we remember to keep distinct in our minds the differences in the word "Inspiration" and when used in other connections. It is the meaning of this particular word which we have defined here used in a particular sense--it is something that never has been claimed for Shakespeare or for Milton or any other great writer. No other writer has claimed that for himself. Inspiration and revelation are two different things. We have revelation from any man to another man--wherever two personalities are involved we have revelation but Inspiration is the special act of the Holy Spirit and has nothing to do with ordinary human beings--it is a special act that relates to the writing of the Scriptures and has nothing to do with any other book--it has to do with keeping the thing written down from error and has nothing to do with putting down new ideas--that is revelation. Revelation can be conveyed through pictures, through general impression and any other way that one would wish and inspiration is the keeping of the writing of these particular books free from error--there is not such thing as an inspiration of ideas.

We must not confuse this with other acts of the Holy Spirit. He will help us to understand His Word and illumine our hearts--the Holy Spirit takes the lost sinner and regenerates him and transforms him into the image of God and turns the heart of stone into a heart of flesh; the Holy Spirit performs many kinds of acts and impowers many and does all sorts of things but they all are different than this business of inspiring men to write the books of the Bible--he kept them from error and it is entirely distinct from any other act of the Holy Spirit which He has ever done or will do. You can never say that inspiration was used in changing a person's life--Inspiration is keeping the writers from error and giving them a general leading in order that their books would convey the thoughts which the Holy Spirit wished contained in the Bible--so let us avoid confusion with other acts of the Holy Spirit.

2. Inspiration is only claimed for the writings--it doesn't refer to the writers except when writing under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is not an inspired man but inspired in His writing--no man was ever so inspired that he never said anything that was wrong, nor that he did not think something wrong at sometime or other--Inspiration refers to that portion which God intended to be part of Scripture--David was inspired when he wrote the Psalms but when he wrote a letter to Joab about getting Uriah killed or when Peter and Paul disputed, they were not inspired by the Holy Spirit--no book was inspired and then lost and certainly not part of the Holy Scriptures, or we would have it with us.