

It is a common experience of life. There is no reason God could not have dictated the whole Bible if He chose. However, God did not choose to give us the Bible in that way. It was His will that the Bible should be made available to us in such a way that we would be able easily to understand its concepts. He desired to put these concepts into human terms, so that finite human minds could grasp them; therefore He gave His revelation step by step in ancient times. The Holy Spirit of God selected the men who were to be writers of parts of His Books. He trained them especially for His purpose. He caused them to have the experiences He wished them to have. He revealed to their minds the truths that were vital for them to know and then He oversaw their activities as they selected words in their own vocabulary in order to write down the ideas that should be contained in the various portions of God's Word. Comparatively little of the Bible was given by direct dictation, but all of it was overseen and inspired by the Spirit of God in such a way that every part of it expresses the mind of God to us. This is what we mean when we say that we believe in plenary inspiration, or in verbal inspiration. Every word of the Bible in the original manuscripts correctly presents the thought that God wishes us to understand.