

Further Study: The Bible as the God-Breathed Word of God

From church teaching 19 July 2026, Pastor Gareth Bruce

Key Text: “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*” (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible does not merely claim to contain inspiring thoughts about God; it claims to be **God-breathed** (*theopneustos*). This is a remarkable distinction. Inspiration can suggest that a person had a brilliant idea or spiritual insight. God-breathed goes much further—it points to God's own activity in communicating Himself to humanity through human authors.

Throughout Scripture, God's breath is connected with life, creation, and revelation. In Genesis, God breathes life into Adam. In Ezekiel's vision, the breath of God brings life to dry bones. In 2 Timothy, the same divine breath is connected to the Scriptures. The Bible is therefore not simply a record of human religious experience; it is the written testimony of God revealing Himself.

One of the strongest themes in the Bible is that **God speaks**. He spoke creation into existence. He spoke to Noah, Abraham, Moses, the prophets, and ultimately through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible records this ongoing divine communication. Christianity is founded not on humanity's search for God, but on God's initiative in making Himself known.

This truth reaches its climax in Jesus. John writes, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*” (John 1:1). Jesus is not only a messenger of God's Word—He is the eternal Word made flesh. The God who breathed His revelation through Scripture has revealed Himself perfectly in Christ. For this reason, every study of the Bible should lead us toward a deeper knowledge of Jesus.

Because Scripture is God-breathed, it deserves more than casual reading. We approach it with humility, expectancy, and obedience. When we read the Bible, we are not merely studying an ancient text; we are listening to the voice of the living God. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, continues to illuminate them to believers today.

Questions for Reflection

1. What do you think the difference is between a book being “inspired” and being “God-breathed”?
2. How does the theme of God speaking (his *rhema* word) shape your understanding of the Bible scripture?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus is called “the Word” in John 1? In what ways?

4. In what ways might you approach reading the Bible as a conversation with God rather than simply an academic exercise? Can you see how God might be speaking?
5. What practical changes might occur in your life if you truly believed that Scripture is God's living message to you? Think about the list given in the church teaching/
It cuts like a sword Like a mirror to the soul A lamp to a path A refining fire
A seed that settles and grows A river of life that washes and refreshes
An ointment over pain and hurt Food that nourishes

Prayer

Father, thank You for breathing Your Word into the world and revealing Yourself through Scripture. Open my ears to hear Your voice, my mind to understand Your truth, and my heart to obey what You say. Help me to see Jesus more clearly in Your Word and to be transformed by it each day. Amen.