

Glen Park Gospel Church
Worship at Home November 1st 2020

Introit

Open our eyes Lord, We want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch Him, And say that we love Him.
Open our ears Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Psalm 103 :1 - 5 A Psalm of David

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Prayer: Dear Lord, We have put this hour aside to worship and praise you. As we do so we are aware that you desire of us that we come before you with clean hands and a pure heart. We do so having already come to you for reconciliation and restoration through the precious shed Blood of Jesus, and according to your promise that all who come to you through faith in Jesus our Lord, you will not cast out. We could not approach you at all if this were not so, for we are still subject to the excesses and passions of this life and will be until you take us home. Therefore, remembering the instruction of your Son "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean." We thank you for this confidence. O God, renew a right spirit within us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

R22 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven Henry F. Lyte 1793 - 1847

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!	2 Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress. Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness
3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows. In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!	Glorious in his faithfulness you behold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Reading for Comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3 - 5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with

which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Reading On being more like Jesus.

Galatians 5:22 - 25 Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

R204 What a Friend We Have in Jesus. Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855)

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Address

How Can I in a Day like this, Trust the Bible as Word of God?

The Bible Text used here is that of the English Standard Version.

The Bible indicates that Scripture is given word after word by the Spirit of the Living God. If that is true what it has to say must be very important. But some people doubt that this is true. Do you?

Before we proceed, here is a little test of your knowledge of the text of the Bible. Please turn to the part of the Bible that tells us that God's word of is verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit. By verbal we

mean the words that the Holy Spirit chose or approved to be used by the writer of a Bible book, in particular of the New Testament books, that stated what these men had upon their hearts to say.

Did you turn to Second Timothy chapter three and verse sixteen? Well done. For here in 2 Timothy Paul speaks about the inspiration of the Old Testament scriptures. But Paul does not say 'inspired word by word.' Almost every Jewish male at least would be familiar with this scripture. He would recognise it as having been given by God to the prophets and the priests as being appointed by God for the provision of the oracles, the psalms, the wisdom, the national history of their people. These Scriptures were read every Sabbath in the synagogues throughout the land. The New Testament is replete with quotations, excerpts and examples from them and the writers of the New Testament liberally used them to validate and justify the doctrines and precepts that they taught. And Paul here tells us that this Old Testament scripture is provided, not by imagination, but was inspired by God, and it is able to completely equip the Bible teachers and preachers of the grace that is in Jesus Christ for every task that they undertook.

Paul did not refer to the New Testament scriptures, but to that which they all had, the Old Testament. Some of the New Testament books had been written and circulated to other local Churches at this time, the time of the execution of Paul, about 67AD, but the last of them would take another twenty to thirty years to complete.

All our conservative scholars acknowledge that Paul had the Old Testament scriptures in mind when writing to Timothy the second time.

The Gospel of John, and also his three letters did not exist then (68AD,) nor did Hebrews, and probably Jude was thinking about what he was to say. This is also true of Peter's letters. And also The Revelation. These books were being completed hundreds of miles from where Paul was waiting in prison in Rome.

Now, this delay in the completion of New Testament documents does not mean that the principles of inspiration could not still continue to be observed in the future as they had in the past.

It does not say that God put His hand on the pen fingers of the writer, but it does say that when they wrote, they conveyed accurately to their page the heart and mind of God, so that in what they wrote, God Himself spoke through them.

Paul tells us elsewhere how this was accomplished.

How did it happen? Paul explains it to us in what was real time for him. First he lays a foundation then puts it in three basic words.

By 'inspired' some people say, "That preacher inspired me." They mean that they were encouraged in their life of faith, or that he gave them some new ideas of things to do. But we mean that the Holy Spirit told the Bible authors what to write.

Text: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16. Read it in your own Bible now

.Paul speaks of a special revelation to the apostles by the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:4&5 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul wrote of the teaching of the apostles, including himself, who stood in the authority of Jesus Christ. It is a fulfilment of a promise of Jesus to the apostles:

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

This promise does not necessarily work for us: but it did for them because it was given to them who heard the words of Jesus.

Here is confirmation:

Ephesians 3:4&5 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Consider Paul's readers. He is writing to Greeks. They were specialists in logic and philosophy for the very best motives, but with sub-standard results. All their effort, their processes of human reasoning yielded them no certainty because human reason has no final authority. It was all human guesswork.

A background to Greek philosophical thought helps us appreciate Paul's words. In his lecture on Oriental Religions and Christianity the late Frank F Ellingsworth quotes Plato:

"We will wait, for one, be it a god or a god-inspired man, to teach us our religious duties. . . ." And in another place: "We must lay hold of the best human opinion in order that, borne by it as on a raft, we may sail over the dangerous sea of life, unless we can find a stronger boat, . . . or some word of God which will more surely and safely carry us . . ."

Ellingsworth again comments,

"Plato's representation of the mercy of God, of his providential care, of his unmixed goodness, of his eternal beauty and holiness--are well-nigh up to the New Testament standard. So is also his doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

"The fatal deficiency is that Plato does not know. He had no divine revelation.

Thus, Paul in his sermon on Mars Hill, Athens:

"Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. Act 17:23.

Paul removes himself from their approach, but not the desire to discover an understanding of the Eternal. vv1-5.

He has an answer for their search, but a different approach. He has authority. v7 "We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages, for our glory." The Bible also says that, the God they are seeking Has revealed Himself in many ways.

Hebrews 1:1 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets."

For **us**, we might read: "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our brethren by the apostles."

Here's why!

Turn to 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Neither human wisdom or investigation has been able to search out God. This is what is meant by a much misunderstood verse v9. "But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,' "

Some think that this verse tells of the joys of heaven. Others think that this verse tells of blessings on earth.

Actually it says that all our human observations and human wisdom cannot know God.

The word "*entered* the heart of man," AV does not mean come into, but 'thought up,' like our expression 'It never entered my mind!' The newer translations are better.

Paul is saying. 'The truth that Scripture reveals did not arise in the brain of natural man. No man ever dreamed up the true things of God.'

Paul teaches in this chapter that there are three functions of God the Holy Spirit in making the mind of God known to man. If The Holy Spirit performs these three works in your heart, it will be true of you v 16, "We have the mind of Christ."

These three functions are **Revelation, Inspiration, Illumination.**

1. Revelation. means "to lay bare, exposing what is been covered up."

:10-12 **These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. :11 For who knows a (any) person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. :12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Just as I do not know what is deep in your heart unless you tell me, moreover a man does not know what is in the heart of God unless God tells him. And the Spirit of God has chosen to reveal relevant secrets to the heart and mind of His holy apostles and prophets.

You and I cannot claim this special revelation as we are not an apostle or a prophet: This is the meaning of 1 Corinthians 2:4&5 My speech and my message were not in plausible (persuasive) words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Also

Ephesians 3:1-5 I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me *by revelation*, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations *as it has now been revealed* to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. (Italic emphasis mine to point to 'revelation')

And we are God's people built upon their work.

2. Inspiration. The word means, 'breathed into.'

It is one thing to know something in your head and heart, but another to find just the right words to perfectly instruct someone else. To meet this need, The Holy Spirit inspired them to write using words from their personal vocabulary, words they knew. This is why the style of each of the Bible writers is markedly different, but their message is consistent.

This word, 'inspiration', comes from 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" meaning that "All scripture is given by the breath of God."

How does God do this?

I Corinthians 2:13a "*And we impart this (given in v12) in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit,*" and the Holy Spirit did that for the New Testament writers in every-day Greek, the lingua franca, or common language of the wider Roman world. The language that the Holy Spirit inspired was common, every day Greek. It could be read by people of all nations in the Roman world.

The next bit in v13b, can be a little confusing because what was understood by the then Greek speaking world is not our native , or heart language, today. One repeated Greek word translates to a whole sentence in English, and even our

translators have struggled to cope as you will see by comparing the translations. But it is an important piece of our jigsaw. Let's compare some of their texts:

AV & NKJB "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" True but unenlightening. NASB "combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." Good, but not quite true. ESV "interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual." True and a Bit Better. NIV "explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words." True - Best so far. WNT "adapting, as we do, spiritual words to spiritual truths." Not quite perfect.

Why the confusion? The same Greek word is repeated but in a change of form. This change cannot be translated into English word for word. It needs a little explanation bearing in mind the topic being discussed, the inspiration of the words of Scripture.

What they are trying to say is that: "The Holy Spirit who is God, knows the truth being conveyed from the mind of God and the Holy Spirit knows the language and experience of the human Bible author, an apostle. The holy Spirit takes that thought of God and fits it correctly to the words that the author knows and uses in everyday life."

Illustration: The Holy Spirit is like a jigsaw player searching for just the right piece.

So that:

In Luke who is was doctor we find "has a hundred of words in his Gospel that doctors used. William Hobart wrote a book detailing them all. Only Luke records, "Doubtless, . . . you will quote to me the proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself: all that we hear that you have done at Capernaum, do here also in your native place Luke 4:23.'"

Paul university trained in the liberal arts (especially philosophy, grammar and

rhetoric) of Tarsus university, and his added studies of Jewish law under Gamaliel. See Acts 22:3.

John a fisherman until Jesus called him, used the style of the boat to tell the inner heart of Jesus.

An illustration of this is in the way the Gospel writers began their narratives.

Each writer is a different pen, some black, or red, or blue. Some thick, or thin, some water based, or spirit, or indelible. Each makes a different mark and has a different purpose, but all convey to the paper exactly what is in the Spirit's mind at the time.

3. Illumination. It means to light up. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. :15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. :16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

The purpose of Scripture is not to teach us everything, but to reveal Jesus whom to know is life eternal:

John 5:39 *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.*

What is the difference between perception and understanding? What we perceive we see with our heart. What we understand we learn with our mind. The natural man does not understand that which only the Holy Spirit can reveal.

Many of the most brilliant thinkers cannot perceive the reality of Jesus Christ, because they are using their naturally superior intellectual powers.

Some think that because spiritual things are spiritually discerned, that intellectual inquiry is not needed. That is not true. They are different faculties given to man at creation. If natural man does not have spiritual discernment, because he is not born anew into the kingdom, it does not carry that those who are born anew lost their brain. We ought to have and use both faculties to the best of our endowment and ability, and trust God for the rest.

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Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm 1856 -1950

"Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

Benediction:

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jud 1:24 & 25