

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 15 THE BIBLE: GOD'S INSPIRED WORD

2 Timothy 3: 16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”

The call to memorise this verse and the intent of this Bible Study is not to defend the Bible. The Bible will still be the Book of all books when all other writings of men throughout the centuries have passed into obscurity. Let the Bible speak in its own defence. There are several important things to note.

THE DEFINED EXTENT OF AN INSPIRED BIBLE “All Scripture”

The little three-letter word **all** is very inclusive. It means what it says: **“All** Scripture is God-breathed”. The psalmist said, “The law of the Lord is perfect” (Psalm 19:7). King Solomon said, “Every word of God is flawless” (Proverbs 30:5). Some people find it popular today to contend that they believe only part of the Bible, not necessarily all of it. But Scripture defends itself, saying, **“All** Scripture is God-breathed”. When Jesus emerged from the obscurity of the Nazareth carpentry shop to begin His public ministry, He was immediately tempted by the devil, and He replied with Scripture: “It is written: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). To what extent is the bible God-breathed? The answer to that question is found in the first two words of our verse for the week: **“All Scripture”**.

THE DETAILED EVIDENCE OF AN INSPIRED BIBLE “God-breathed”

The Scripture is “God-breathed”. It is supernatural. It is given by God. It originates with God, not with man. It is a library of sixty-six books written over a period of more than fourteen hundred years by at least forty different authors from all walks of life. Some were fishermen, others were prophets, kings, shepherds, doctors, and rabbis. Yet this book has come together with one theology, one plan of redemption, and one theme running throughout its pages, leaving no explanation for its unique nature outside of God Himself. It is given by God Himself. God used men in the process, but He did not breathe on them. Instead, He breathed out of them His words. In a very real sense, the writings were not their own. God Himself expressed this very point in Jeremiah: “Now I have put My words in your mouth” (Jeremiah 1:9). The writers’ personalities and styles are unique to them, but it was God who moved them to write by His Spirit. **All Scripture is God-breathed.**

THE DIVINE EFFECT OF AN INSPIRED BIBLE “is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”

God’s word is indeed “useful” for these four things. There is the sense in which the Bible is like a road map. First there is doctrine, the way we begin our journey with proper teaching that shows us God’s plan of salvation and sanctification. Next, the Bible is useful for correcting: it corrects our mistakes and gets us on the right road again. Finally, Scripture is useful for “training in righteousness”: the Word trains us how to stay on the road so that we do not get off again. An effective ministry of God’s Word will teach doctrine, rebuke sin, correct false paths, and instruct in godly living. Balance is the key. Some believers go overboard on doctrine to the virtual exclusion of rebuke, correction, or instruction. Even those these people are doctrinally sound, they are living without power. Others focus too much on rebuke: they seem to think it is their God-given assignment to rebuke everyone else about their sin. Others focus on correction, apparently thinking it is their calling to correct everyone else. Still others get out of balance on “training in righteousness” to the exclusion of teaching doctrine, and thus they have no direction in life. An effective Christian life is a balanced life. The desired end of knowing Scripture is that “the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).

As you memorise this verse this week, meditate on the fact that when you study the Bible, you do not judge it; it judges you. God’s word has stood the test of time and will still be the Book of all books when all others have passed into obscurity. No wonder the psalmist said, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).