

tion. This may mean the same thing, simply a glow of warm feeling. We may be pondering over some problem, and as we walk along, a thought suddenly comes to us. We say we have an inspiration. We mean that ^{an} idea suddenly occurs; something which we had not expected. There are various ways in which this word is ~~used~~ used. In connection with the writing of the books of the Scripture, we use "inspiration" as a technical term to indicate the activity of the Holy Spirit as He led the writers in writing books that were intended to ~~become~~ be part of the Word of God. This is a special technical description of a specific act on the part of the Holy Spirit, and the word in this sense has a meaning which is different from any other sense in which it is used. Perhaps it would be better if we used an entirely different word to indicate this particular thought. "Inspiration" as regards the books of the Scripture, ^{is} an act of the Holy Spirit in guiding the writers. It applies only to writing; it has nothing to do with speaking. It has nothing to do with God's revelation of truth to people, which is something we call "revelation", and quite distinct from "inspiration". The apostles were wonderfully led of God, as He revealed to them new truths, and as He guided in their great sermons in which they opened up the truth to the world. This was something entirely different from that which He did when He led certain of them to write books that were to be part of the inspired Word of God. If it is desired to call God's control ~~the~~ over the speaking and His leading the thoughts of the apostles, as they gave their great sermons, inspiration, then, we must remember that we are using the term in an entirely different sense from that in which we use it when we speak of their activity as writing books for the Bible. The apostles were not gods and they were not infallible. Certainly, when they were not preaching or writing, they had many false ideas and expressed many erroneous things about science and history and other matters. The Holy Spirit prevented any of these erroneous ideas from finding their way into that which was to be a permanent guide for the church and part of the Holy Scripture.

How, then, do we know that we have the right books? We find that an interesting thing has occurred. In the providence of God, the Jews, the people of God in Old Testament days, were led to a consensus of opinion as to which books were the inspired Word