

"Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit by which He guided the makers of the books of the Scriptures so that their words should convey the thoughts which He wished conveyed, should bear a proper relationship to the thought of the other inspired books, and should be kept free from errors in fact, doctrine, and of judgment."

(1) Avoid confusion with the other words meanings of Inspiration, or with other acts of the Holy Spirit. HOW helpful it would be if we had an entirely separate vocabulary for the purposes of theology. Medical doctors get it in medicine--cf. reumatism and arthritis. In theology most of our words either are taken from ordinary speech or they have gone into ordinary speech and consequently we often find great confusion in our terminology. Cf. the word "Apologetics"--we don't apologize for what we believe--we give a defence for it. Inspiration is a word with many many meanings which is unfortunate. ILL. of man who thought the Bible was full of errors--mentioned about the ark in which all the animals were taken and then how the ark was borne upon the shoulders of four men in the wilderness. The ark is used both senses in our English Bible but meaning two different things. You look out on a beautiful scene from a mountain and it is called "Inspiration point" and then you receive an inspiration to do a certain thing, but that has nothing to do with the inspiration that we speak of in connection with the Bible. Literally it means "breathed in"--the Barthian believes the Bible is inspired because it inspires them and the parts that inspire them most they think are the best inspired--that is not the theological sense at all. People will ask how is the Bible any more inspired than Shakespeare--the idea is entirely different. It has nothing to do with either Shakespeare or Milton. It is a theological term which is only said of the Bible. Just because some writers were filled with wonderful ideas and observations and that which carries us along with joy, but that is not what we mean when we speak of the Bible be inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is important that we get the distinctions correct in our own minds and don't get them confused. ILL. of man who I met on the train that spoke with this strong German accent and had a difficult time with his English--wanted to know what "refrain" meant which was used as a chorus--these lines which you repeat but he didn't seem to understand because at the other end of the coach there was a sign--"Please refrain from putting your heads out of the windows." Even though it was the word with the same sound it meant two different things in reality--we raze a building down or raise it up. A color is fast if it doesn't run but a fast horse is one that can run. It would be helpful if when we are