

He inspired men to write down these ideas in words which present them accurately. Inspiration is actually a matter of words.

This should not lead us to think that verbal inspiration means that these are the only words in which God's ideas could be expressed. It means nothing of the sort. Positively, it means that these words do express the desired ideas. Negatively, it means that they do not include or properly imply other ideas which are false.

Many people have a real problem when they find in the Bible parallel passages expressing the same ideas in different ways. They should remember that verbal inspiration does not mean that only one particular phrase could express the divine idea. Verbal inspiration means that the words are suitable for the purpose, and that they are free from error.

God did not create a set of mathematical symbols for the giving of His Word. He used human language, with all its weakness and changeableness, but He used it in such a way as to accomplish His purpose.

Human words vary in their meaning from time to time. One sentence may be interpreted in various ways. Verbal inspiration never justifies taking a few words out of context and building a doctrine upon them. It means that the words, as used in the time and place of writing, studied in their context, present the very idea God desires presented, and do not include false ideas. It takes study to find the exact meaning of the words in their context, but as a result of such study the Spirit of God leads the sincere student to ^{the} correct understanding of the Divine wisdom.

It is extremely vital that we ~~understand~~ stand for the verbal inspiration of the Scripture. Nothing could be more important than to maintain the complete authority of God's Word. Yet it is equally vital that we do not stop here. Verbal inspiration is not an end, but a foundation. Let us go forward to study every part of God's Word. Let us compare Scripture with Scripture, in order to see the Divine truth. There are inexhaustable treasures awaiting us.