

Who wrote the Bible/how was God involved? Difficult Questions about the Bible

- A. Many authors wrote or their ideas were the driving force behind the 66 (or so) books we call the Bible
- B. Inspiration - part of God "_____ In" by a biblical author which moved them to receive and then transmit divine truth
- C. The difference between historical context and God's divinely inspired truth
1. Although the Bible is the inspired word of God, there are many parts of the Bible that do nothing more than simply describe the _____ in which the Bible was written.
 2. Profound difference between God-inspired, universal truths for all time, and those verses in the Bible that are simply describing the historical context in which they were written; and in some cases, discerning the difference will be the key factor in you having a meaningful, balanced faith or not.
- D. 2 extremes (and a myriad of positions in-between) concerning Inspiration
1. "_____ Approach" - every single word in the Bible is exactly what God wanted; for some, they say, "Even though humans put it on paper, God actually chose the words of the Bible."
 - a. inerrancy – the Bible is without error
 - b. infallibility – the Bible is without any _____
 2. _____ Approach - human beings not only wrote the Bible, but all the ideas in the Bible are simply from humans as well; God was the subject matter that inspired the biblical writers, however God basically had nothing to do with the actual writing of the biblical text
- E. Must we choose sides?
1. When you have 2 competing sides that are taking extremes on the same issue, typically, where do you find truth?
 2. Extreme positions tend to be clouded by personal _____ that cause people to be unable to see the forest for all the trees
 3. Often, both sides tend to be right about something and both sides tend to be wrong about something too.
 4. Methodist approach (in theory) - Especially concerning the more difficult issues, we start with the scriptures, & yes we appeal to what God may be saying to us in the Bible, but then we _____ what we read in the Bible, with our understandings of the human element (like historical context), and with reason, tradition, and experience
- F. Concerning the issue of inspiration, when you find a healthy balance flavored with a little humility, "There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
- b. breathed c. historical context D1. fundamentalist b. flaws 2. humanist 2. biases
4. balance