



Lecture # 13 Part 3

Specific Claims for the Inspiration of the New Testament

Now that the claim in and for the inspiration of the Old Testament has been examined, a similar examination of the New Testament claim is needed in order to complete the proposition that the Bible as a whole, and the whole Bible, claims to be the authoritative Word of God. **The testimony of the New Testament to its own inspiration begins with the words of Christ, the central figure of the New Testament.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS WERE SPIRIT-DIRECTED

In a real sense, Christ is the key to the inspiration and canonization of the Scriptures. It was He who confirmed the inspiration of the Hebrew canon of the Old Testament; and it was He who promised that the Holy Spirit would direct the apostles into “**all truth,**” the fulfillment resulting in the New Testament.

JESUS PROMISED THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS WOULD BE SPIRIT-DIRECTED

Jesus Himself did not commit His teaching to writing, but on several occasions during His earthly ministry He promised that the apostles would be directed by the Holy Spirit in the utterance and propagation of His teaching. **This promise was fulfilled during the life of Christ and extended as well into the post-resurrection and post-Pentecostal ministries of the apostles.**

Guidance in preaching

First, Jesus promised the guidance of the Holy Spirit in what the apostles would ***speak about Him.***

1. When the twelve were first commissioned (**Read Matthew 10:5-15**) to preach “**the kingdom of heaven**” (**Matthew 10:7**), Jesus promised them, saying:

Matthew 10:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ “**But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.**

²⁰ **For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you**” (cf. **Luke 12:11-12**).

Luke 12:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ “**When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say;**



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¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

2. The same promise was also given to the seventy (**Read [Luke 10:1-12](#)**) when Jesus authorized them to preach “the kingdom of God” (**[Luke 10:9](#)**), with this added confirmation:

Luke 10:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ **“The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”**

3. In the Olivet discourse Jesus reiterated the same promise of Spirit-directed utterances for those called on to give an account for their faith in the hour of trial, saying:

(Read [Mark 13:9-13](#))

Mark 13:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **“When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.”**

4. Later, after the Last Supper, Jesus further elaborated this promise to the eleven, saying:

(Read [John 14:25-31](#))

John 14:26 (NASB)

²⁶ **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”**

At that same time He also told them:

(Read [John 16:12-15](#))

John 16:13 (NASB)

¹³ **“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”**

5. The Great Commission of Christ provides the same promise, as it states:

(Read [Luke 24:44-49](#))

Luke 24:47-48 (NASB)

⁴⁷ **“and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

⁴⁸ **“You are witnesses of these things.”**

The disciples were further told:

Luke 24:49 (NASB)

⁴⁹ **“And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”**



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This very commission was recorded by Matthew in the following words: **“I am with you always, even to the end of the age”** ([Matthew 28:20 \(NASB\)](#)). Thus, the apostles were again promised the presence of God in and through their preaching and teaching.

[Matthew 28:18-20 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ **“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

6. Just prior to His Ascension, Jesus answered the disciples’ inquiry about the future with the promise: **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”** ([Acts 1:8 \(NASB\)](#)).

[Acts 1:6-8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ **“So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”**

⁷ **He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;**

⁸ **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

That the Holy Spirit would empower them in their *witness* about Christ was their assurance.