



Specific Claims for the Inspiration of the New Testament

THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS ARE SPIRIT-DIRECTED

SPECIFIC CLAIMS THAT NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS ARE INSPIRED

Not only did Jesus promise divine guidance, and the New Testament as a whole claim to be the product of that guidance, but each individual New Testament book contains a claim to substantiate that position. A brief survey will suffice to support this point.

Jude

Jude claims to be a record of “our common salvation” and “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” ([v. 3](#)).

Jude 1:3 (NASB)

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Revelation

The Apocalypse, as its name appears in Greek, begins: “**The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave**” ([1:1](#)) through John, who considered himself to be one with the “prophets” ([22:9](#)). The book ends with the most severe warning in the Bible for anyone who “adds to” or “takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy” ([22:18–19](#)).

Revelation 1:1 (NASB)

¹ **The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave** Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

Revelation 22:9 (NASB)

⁹ But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

Revelation 22:18-19 (NASB)

¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Lecture # 15 Part 3



So virtually every book in the New Testament contains a claim for its own authority in one manner or another. The cumulative effect of this self-testimony is an overwhelming confirmation that the New Testament writers claimed inspiration.

Sometimes [**1 Corinthians 7:10–12**](#) is used to deny this position.

[**1 Corinthians 7:10-12 \(NASB\)**](#)

¹⁰But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

¹¹(but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹²But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

In that passage Paul writes, “**To the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord To the rest I say, not the Lord.**” It is argued that Paul is here giving his own opinion and not an authoritative pronouncement. However, it should be observed that Paul probably meant merely to say that Jesus said nothing explicitly about the subject at hand during His earthly ministry.

Hence, Paul had to say, “**I have no command [epitagen] of the Lord, but I give an opinion**” ([**1 Corinthians 7:25**](#)). His opinion, however, was inspired.

[**1 Corinthians 7:25 \(NASB\)**](#)

²⁵Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.

Paul said, “**I also have the Spirit of God**” ([**1 Corinthians 7:40**](#)).

[**1 Corinthians 7:40 \(NASB\)**](#)

⁴⁰But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

Jesus said to His disciples before His death, “**I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth**” ([**John 16:12–13**](#)).

[**John 16:12-13 \(NASB\)**](#)

¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

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.

The inspired advice of Paul in [**1 Corinthians 7**](#) is apparently an example of the fulfillment of that promise. In fact, Paul later said in the same epistle, “**The things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment**” ([**1 Corinthians 14:37**](#)).

Lecture # 15 Part 3



1 Corinthians 14:37 (NASB)

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

These things are within the province of the process ([2 Peter 1:20–21](#)) and product ([2 Timothy 3:16–17](#)) of inspiration.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The claim for inspiration in the New Testament is derived from the fact that Jesus promised His disciples that He would guide them into “all the truth” by the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament writers claimed the fulfillment of that promise for their oral message and for their writings. They claimed that their oral message was:

- (1) on the same level as the Old Testament messages of the prophets;
- (2) the foundation of the New Testament church;
- (3) authoritative for the church.

They also claimed to be directed by the Holy Spirit in their writings, which they held to be: (1) prophetic; (2) sacred Scripture; (3) divinely authoritative; and (4) commanded to be read and circulated in the churches (see [Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27](#)).

Colossians 4:16 (NASB)

16 When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 (NASB)

27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

Furthermore, when a survey is made of all of the books of the New Testament, a claim is found in each individual book for its own divine origin and authority, either directly or indirectly. So, then, both in all of its parts and as a whole the New Testament claims to be the inspired Word of God.