

authority and power  
of God's  
Word

by Derek Prince

## AUTHORITY AND POWER OF GOD'S WORD

**I**n this booklet, we want to examine the attributes of the Scripture, the Word of God—and especially its authority and power. As a beginning point, it will help us to consider the source and author of the Word—God Himself.

First, let's recognize that there are two different ways in which the title "the Word of God" is applied. Both the Bible and Jesus Christ are called "the Word of God." This brings out the fact that there is a complete identity between Jesus and the Bible. The Bible is God's written Word; Jesus is God's personal Word.

If we really want to be rightly related to Jesus, we have to be rightly related to the Bible. We cannot be rightly related to Jesus but wrongly related to the Bible. This theme, then—the authority and the power of God's Word—is obviously of great importance to us.

The Author

If we stop to consider it, the word authority comes from the word author. In other words, it is the author who gives authority to whatever he produces. We need to know, therefore, who is the author of the Bible, the Scripture. The Bible itself clearly answers this question:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

If we want to be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work, the source of that preparation is Scripture. Where Paul says that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, the Greek word means “God-breathed.” In the Greek, the word for breath and the word for spirit are identical. That means all Scripture is inbreathed by the Spirit of God.

In other words, the authority behind all Scripture is the authority of the Holy Spirit. He ultimately is the author. He used many different channels and many different instruments, but behind them all is the authority of the Holy Spirit who is God Himself. When we confront the Scripture we confront the authority of God Himself.

God Inspired

The passage above says all Scripture is inspired—not some. Some people want to weed out the passages they regard inspired from those they do not consider really authoritative. But that is not in line with Scripture. The Holy Spirit Himself says all Scripture is inspired by God and all Scripture is profitable. In other words, no books can be left out or considered unimportant.

Books like Ezra and Nehemiah are very important. The Song of Songs is very important. The prophet Nahum is very important. We must not just focus on a few well-known passages of Scripture and think that they are all that matters, because that is not correct.

If we want to be equipped, we must be equipped by the whole Scripture. It will take us many years, but it is progressive. We can move from strength to strength (Psalm 84:7) as we meditate on, study and apply the Word of God. Remember that Jesus said building on His foundations is hearing and doing the Word of God. (See Matthew 7:24.) Not just hearing, but hearing and doing.

### One Interpreter

As regards the interpretation of Scripture, there is only one authorized interpreter—the Author Himself. There are quite a number of books bearing my name as the author. If anyone is not quite certain what they mean, I would be the best person to consult, because I know what I meant. I may not have said it as clearly