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Dear Associates and Friends,

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What does “inspiration” of the Scriptures mean? What role did inspiration play in the development of the New Testament? How did the New Testament writers use their inspiration to quote and cite the Old Testament? How did the New Testament writers recognize prophecies fulfilled in Christ? This month’s two-part article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin will address these issues. It is composed from two audiotapes from 1992 and 1980, together titled, “[God’s Inspiration Made Clear](#).”

The first part deals with inspiration in action, who were the people involved, and the special power and authority God gave to certain individuals to compile the New Testament. Dr. Martin’s narrative describes the canonization process of the New Testament from a different angle than presented in his book, [Restoring the Original Bible](#). It will give you additional information and insight on that process.

The second part (originally “The Inspiration of the Bible”) explains how New Testament writers used quotations, citations, and allusions from the Law, Prophets, and Psalms to demonstrate prophecies about Christ. The New Testament writers were empowered to interpret Scripture in ways we cannot use today. Why? So the witnesses of Christ’s resurrection could give all future generations the complete word of God.

You may be surprised and perhaps stunned by what you learn in this article. The way New Testament writers used Old Testament source material was definitively different from the way we use and cite sources today. However, I hope that recognizing the special quality of God’s communicating with you through His written Word will lead you to ask God to give you something specific and special — see below.

Thank You

As I have written before, we at ASK desire you be taught about God from the entire Bible, as quickly as you can learn it. Reading Ephesians, I was reminded that you and I have the right to ask God for something special that the apostle Paul says God and Christ already desire to give you. Ask for it now:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may GIVE UNTO YOU the spirit of [1] wisdom and [2] revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of YOUR understanding being enlightened; that YOU may know [3] what is the hope of his calling, and [4] what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints [Luckily, you are one!].”

• **Ephesians 1:17–18**

Anything someone “gives” you is a gift. God wants to give you a gift He greatly desires for you to have now, a full knowledge of God and His purpose in your life and that of all mankind.¹ It is a gift God will give you because He wants you to understand Him. It may be a slow process, but He will accomplish His will in you. Bells and whistles will not go off (or I hope not) as you receive the gift little by little. You are requesting a gift that God says He wants to give you, a gift to change you to better love God and your neighbor.

Thank all of you who study ASK material. Let us know how our work connects with you and in what ways it does so. We thank especially (1) those who pray for us, (2) those who encourage (it helps inspire us), and (3) those who send financial support which sustains us.

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¹ In fact, every person born of Adam will become a Child of God. It is God’s will through Christ, 1 Timothy 2:4–6, 4:10.