

## INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:15 says that the Bible is God breathed. What does it mean?

The Bible is inspired by God and the writers are just men. The Bible is not mechanically inspired, where God dictated every comma full stop etc., but used men selected by God with their own different personalities and vocabularies to express what has come from God. 2 Peter 1:21 says they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit motivated and gave the ability to express the truth. God is the ultimate author and he used ordinary men to express his word.

How were the books in the New Testament put together?

First of all we need to understand what is a cannon. The word cannon comes from the word reed which means measuring stick. The cannon means what books that were measured to be included in the Bible. The Jews have the Old Testament cannon where Christians have accepted the Jewish cannon except the Roman Catholics as they have extra books added to the Old Testament cannon.

What kinds of qualifications needed for books to be accepted into the New Testament cannon?

There are four points that were needed for certain books to be accepted into the cannon.

### 1) Authorship.

It has to be an apostle or a very close associate of an apostle. As an example Mark was very close to Peter & Paul. Luke was very close to Paul. Jude and James were brothers of Jesus.

### 2.) The books had to be written during the apostolic period.

There were some very great books that were written soon after the apostolic period, like the epistle of Barnabas, Seven Letters to the Churches by Ignatius etc., but they were not included as they were not written during the apostolic period.

### 2.) The contents of the books had to be consistent with the Christian faith.

### 4.) Approved by Christians.

How was the book of Hebrews accepted as there is no authorship mentioned?

The book of Hebrews was accepted as it was written during the apostolic period and it is consistent with the Christian faith and also it was approved by the Christians.

How about the book of Revelation?

The book of Revelation took a very long time to be accepted into the cannon due to the difficulty of interpreting during that time. It was accepted mainly due to the authorship of apostle John.