

THE BIBLE AS GOD'S REVELATION BY THE SPIRIT

Bruce A Ware, Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

- I. Introduction
- II. Revelation by the Spirit of God—1 Cor 2:6-12 (cf. Eph 3:3-5)
- III. Inspiration by the Spirit of God—1 Cor 2:13 (cf. 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
- IV. Proclamation by the Spirit of God—1 Cor 2:4. Cf., Luke 4:18 (quoting Isa 61:1-2); John 3:34; 16:12-13; Heb 1:1 (w/ 3:7 [Ps 95]; 9:8 [Num 18]; 10:15 [Jer 31]); Acts 1:8; 4:8 (Peter); 4:31 (all); 13:9-10 (Paul)
- V. Illumination by the Spirit of God—1 Cor 2:14-15 (cf. 2 Cor 4:4, 6)
- VI. Conclusion

Of the many reasons we should be humble and dependent before God is this realization, that *ALL of our possession of, correct understanding of, and faithful expression of God's Word happens only and fully by the power of the Spirit.* We can take no credit. He does everything necessary for the granting of that truth by revelation, the proper conveyance of it through inspiring the Holy Scriptures, the proclamation of it in Spirit-empowered teaching and preaching, and the Spirit-enabled understanding by those receiving the message of that truth. And yet—marvel! Marvel that God has deemed it good and right to include human instruments in the process—humans to whom that word was revealed, humans who were the instruments of his inspiration of the Scriptures, human teachers and preachers, and we humans who come to understand those truths—all through the Spirit's grace and power. Amazing grace. Amazing power. Praise be to God for the work that is His, and for allowing us a place to play in possessing, understanding, and proclaiming that glorious truth.