

Fundamentals of the Faith; Lesson 2
Inspiration – part 2
Mark 16:19-20
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the role of the Apostles & of Prophecy in Inspiration.

Intro:

1. What role did the Apostles play in Inspiration, authority & prophecy?
2. There is much confusion in the religious world on these matters.
3. Let's go to the Bible for the answers.

I. The Apostles & Authority

A. The Apostles Word & the Miraculous

1. **Mark 16:19-20**

2. The Apostles preached & God confirmed their words by the accompanying signs.
(Mk 16:20b)

B. Ambassadors on the behalf of Christ

1. The Apostles are also called ambassadors of Christ (**2 Cor 5:20**)
2. The Apostles were the authoritative, official, representatives of the King.
3. Not everyone are ambassadors for Christ; **Acts 1:21-2:4**

II. The Gift of Prophecy

A. Gifts in the 1st Century

1. There are 9 different miraculous gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, 13 & 14.
2. The Apostles possessed all of these gifts as seen in **Acts 8:14-21**.

B. The gift of prophecy.

1. In 1 Cor 14 Paul stresses the gift of prophecy. (**1 Cor 14:1-5**)
2. To prophesy means to “speak for, to speak in behalf of”. Men speak prophecy when they speak for God, that is God speaks through them.
 - a. Aaron was Moses prophet. That is Moses spoke through Aaron (**Ex 7:1**).
3. There is no prophecy without (1) direct revelation, plus (2) miraculous inspiration.
 - a. There is no prophecy unless it comes miraculous from God, directly to man.

III. Relevant Passages

A. **1 Corinthians 2:9-13**

1. In verse 9 Paul refers to certain “things” which God prepared for them that love him.
2. In verse 10 he says “**But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.**”
3. In verse 12 he says “**Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**”
 - a. God revealed – by the Spirit- the “**things**”.
 - b. The “us” in verse 12 is not us today. We receive no direct revelation. We receive it today from the written word that contains those things that were revealed.

B. Ephesians 3:1-5

1. God, by the Holy Spirit, revealed the mystery, by words, to Paul, enabling Paul to understand the mystery.
2. Paul then wrote in words the mystery which God revealed, for those in Ephesus (and for others). Thus making it possible for them to read, and perceive his (Paul's) understanding of the mystery of God-the gospel of Christ.

Conc:

1. Inspiration is not difficult to understand when we study what God's word has said about it, not what men who claim to be inspired teach.
2. This is a fundamental lesson, without fundamentals we can not build, grow and "go on to perfection" (**Heb 6:1**). Let us not disregard such fundamental teachings.
3. Full Invitation