

# Closing Comments

When God caused people to write the Bible what happened? Throughout history that question has been asked many times, and many different answers have been given. I will add one more possible answer.

When a person who was instructed to write down what God told them to say, the words they wrote were God's words, yet those words were also their own words. At that moment the words were both the words of God and of the human being who was God's instrument. The writer's individuality was not erased or diminished. If anything, it was greater than ever before. Yet, God's Word that came through the writer was God's perfect Word. The person writing God's Word did not stop being a sinner, but at that moment God prevented their sinful nature from polluting His Word. Every word was written down exactly as God had given it to them. The event of the scripture being written was miraculous. At that period in history God's perfect, supernatural Word broke into the natural world.

After God's Word was written down it was copied. The process of copying God's Word was not a miracle. But in the end, the Bible that we have still is God's Word. There are variants from one copy to another, but they do not diminish God's Word. The variants do not prevent the Bible from being God's Word. Because the people who copied it were diligent in their work, and because we have many ways to check the accuracy of their work, we can be confident that our God's message in our Bibles is the same message that was given to those who wrote it down. Whatever variants exist they are insignificant in the sense that they do not change the message or teaching of the New Testament in any significant way. Believers can be confident that what they have is God's Word. God will speak to them through the words they read in their Bibles.

The entire story of how we got the Bible is long and complex. The facts can be interpreted in different ways. The facts are not in question, but the interpretation varies. If we seek to grow stronger in our faith, we will find plenty to support what we believe. If we are seeking to cast doubt on the reliability of the Bible we will arrange the facts differently, and our conclusions will match our presuppositions. This does not mean that facts are useless. It does mean, however, that faith is needed. Faith cannot be drawn from a knowledge of the facts alone.

Faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8). If we desire more faith, then we should pray and ask God to grant us more faith. If our faith falters, we should always go to God, not to the facts alone. The facts can be used in conjunction with our faith. Faith is not contrary to the facts. We should not seek to deny the truth, but we should be able to show that the truth can be understood in a way that supports our faith.

Many people today think that faith in God is not important because we can't see or touch God. Miracles happen once, and they can't be repeated, so they cannot be a part of scientific knowledge. As a result, modern people tend to think they are irrelevant. To those who know God, and believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior, these arguments fall flat because believers know in their hearts that God is real.