

What is... Inspiration from God?

As 2025 comes to an end... we see shows & articles providing the “year in review” ... and so often we see “bad news” ... things to discourage us!

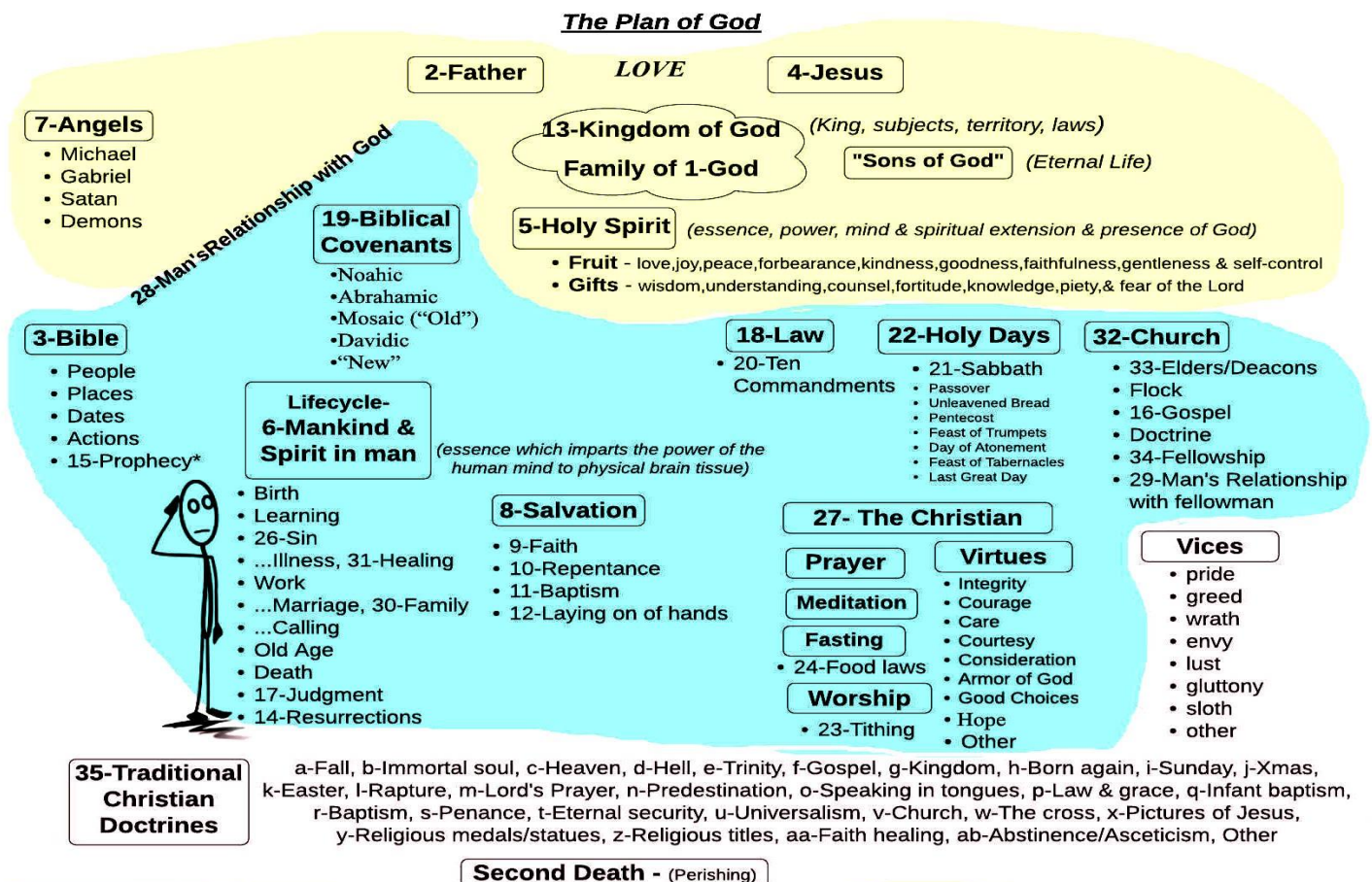
- Tariffs & trade wars threatening our employment ... affordability ... standard of living
- Natural disasters costing the global economy over \$200 billion
- Continued wars, anti-Semitism, attacks on free speech (Bill C-9 ... RE: hate crimes)

Jim's Remedy ...

... We need a sermon showcasing awesome, inspiring people & events in scripture!

Interestingly ... in exploring the subject of inspiration, I found it to be a much bigger study than I ever imagined... including such questions as:

- What are Ten Categories or Types of Inspiration?
- How does inspiration work with free will?
- Is inspiration linked with prayer?
- Is the concept & goal of “Christ in you” linked to inspiration?
- Does inspiration go to godly & ungodly people?
- What does it mean to be inspired by inspiring examples?
- Jim's selection -- 10 Scriptures that Inspire



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

Ten Categories or Types of Inspiration

1. **Divine (Scriptural) Inspiration** - God-breathed revelation that is authoritative & infallible

- **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...
- **2Pe 1:20-21** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- **Heb 1:1-2** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds
- **Psa 119:160** The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

2. **Prophetic Inspiration** - God revealing His will through chosen messengers

- **2 Peter 1:21** ...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- Often verbal revelation ... May include prediction, warning, instruction
- **Requires testing Deut. 13**- Dreamer of false Dreams
1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- **Moses - Exo 3:15** Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'
- **Isaiah - Isa 6:8-9** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
- **Jeremiah - Jer 1:9** Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

3. **Wisdom Inspiration** - God-given insight for skilful living

- **Proverbs 2:6** The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge & understanding
- Not always predictive - Applies truth to life - Often seen through experience & reflection
- **Books** - Proverbs - Ecclesiastes - Job



4. **Artistic / Skill-Based Inspiration** - God enabling creativity & craftsmanship

- **Exodus 31:3** And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.
- Spirit-empowered skill - Used for God's glory - Not doctrinal revelation
- **Temple musicians - 1Ch 25:1** Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals.

5. **Moral / Conscience-Based Inspiration** - God stirring the heart toward obedience

- **Philip 2:13** For it is God who works in you both to will & to do for His good pleasure
- Internal prompting - Aligns with God's revealed Word - Works through conscience
 - **Rom 2:15** ("Doers") who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, & between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them
 - **Heb 10:16** "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND IN THEIR MINDS I WILL WRITE THEM,"
 - **Psa 119:36** Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.

6. **Christ-Centered (Indwelling) Inspiration** - Transformation via Christ "living in" the believer

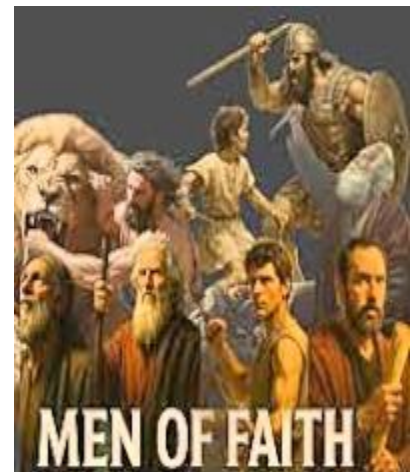
- **Colossians 1:27** Christ in you, the hope of glory
- Relational, not "revealing" things - Produces Christlike character, & fruit of the Spirit
 - **Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 - **Rom 8:10** And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
 - **Joh 15:4-5** Abide in Me, & I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, & I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

7. **Prayer-Mediated Inspiration** - Guidance received through dependence on God

- **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...
- Not new revelation - Illumination & direction - Requires humility & faith
 - **Psa 25:4-5** Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth & teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.
 - **Pro 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
 - **Acts 13:2-3** (*Paul & Barnabas selected by Holy Spirit after prayer & fasting & laying on of hands*)

8. **Inspirational Examples** - God using people's lives to encourage faithfulness

- **Heb 13:7** Remember those who rule over you... whose faith follow
- Secondary inspiration - Must align with Scripture - Can inspire courage, endurance, obedience
 - **1Co 11:1** Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
 - **Heb 11:3 (Faith Chapter)** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible
 - **Jas 5:10-11** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering & patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job & seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate & merciful



9. Providential Inspiration (Circumstances) - God guiding through events without direct speech

- **Proverbs 16:9** A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.
- Indirect - Must be interpreted carefully - Never overrides Scripture
 - Joseph's life (**Genesis 37–50**) **Gen 45:5** But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
 - Esther's rise - **Est 4:14** For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief & deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you & your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?



10. Counterfeit / False Inspiration - Influence not from God

- **1 John 4:1** Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...
 - Human emotion - **Jer 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?
 - False prophets - **Jer 23:16** Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD"
 - Deceptive spirits - **1Tim 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

Questions ...

A) How does inspiration work with "freewill"?

Biblical inspiration is... God's active influence upon the human mind & heart that enables understanding & obedience—without overriding personal choice.

- **Acts 7:51** You stiff-necked... you always resist the Holy Spirit.
If inspiration removed free will:
 - Resistance would be impossible
 - Disobedience would not existYet Scripture consistently shows people:
 - Resisting inspiration (Pharaoh, Israel, Judas)
 - Responding to inspiration (Mary, David, Paul)The Spirit presses truth, but humans decide.
- **Rev 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock
- Common False Views to Avoid
 - Inspiration = loss of free will (Leads to blaming "fate" or to spiritual passivity)
 - Inspiration = emotional surge (Leads to impulsive decisions detached from truth)
 - Inspiration = constant divine control (Contradicts accountability & judgment)

B) Is inspiration linked with prayer?

Prayer is the God-ordained means by which the human will **invites divine inspiration**—aligning the heart to receive what God desires to impart.

Scripture shows Inspiration *commonly* occurs during prayer

- Daniel – understanding came while praying (**Daniel 9:20–23**)
- David – inspired psalms emerged from prayerful cries (**Psalms 51**)
- Jesus – key decisions followed prayer (**Luke 6:12–13**)
- The church – guidance came during prayer (**Acts 13:2–3**)

This pattern is not accidental—it is instructional!



C) Is the concept & goal of “**Christ in you**” linked to inspiration?

“Christ in you” is the indwelling presence of Christ by the Spirit that continually inspires, illumines, & shapes the believer’s will—without overriding Scripture or free choice.

Col 1:27 “Christ in you, the hope of glory.

It means:

- His life is present by the Spirit
- His mind & character can shape yours

Guardrails Against False Claims:

- “Christ in me” means ALL my thoughts are God’s thoughts

Refuted by ongoing calls to test, renew, and discern

Rom 12:2 & do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- “Christ in me” replaces my need for Scripture

Refuted by **Col 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- “Christ in me” removes struggle

Refuted by **Gal 5:17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, & the Spirit against the flesh; & these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

D) Does inspiration go to godly & ungodly people?

God may inspire... or influence both godly & ungodly people to accomplish His purposes, but only the godly experience inspiration as indwelling, sanctifying light that leads to obedience & life.

- Cyrus (pagan king) - **Isaiah 45:1–5** I will go before you... I have called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me
Cyrus was: Chosen, Directed, Empowered ... Yet did not know God savingly.
- Balaam (corrupt prophet) - **Numbers 24:2** The Spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his oracle



Balaam: Spoke true words from God, Loved unrighteous gain (2 Peter 2:15),
Ultimately perished in rebellion

- Pharaoh - **Exodus 9:16** - For this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you.
God influenced events and hardened Pharaoh

- **Matthew 7:22–23** Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name...?
Even Truth can be spoken without obedience ...

- True words - Real activity - No saving relationship ... Inspiration ≠ approval.

Inspiring **ungodly** people can be done:

- To advance His sovereign plan
- To restrain evil
- To judge or warn
- To leave them without excuse (Romans 1:20)

Inspiring with **godly** people can be done:

- To sanctify
- To guide
- To comfort
- To conform them to Christ

E) What does it mean to be inspired by inspiring examples?

To be inspired by inspiring examples ... is to have God use the faithful obedience of others to awaken, strengthen, and direct our own obedience—while Scripture remains the authority and Christ the model.

Discerning **Healthy Inspiration** from Examples

1. Does this example point me to God, not to the person?
2. Does it align with Scripture, not sentiment?
3. Does it move me toward obedience, not admiration?
4. Does it endure when emotions fade?

Beware of **False Inspiration**

- Emotional admiration without obedience -
James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only
- Personality-driven devotion - **1 Cor 1:13** Was Paul crucified for you?
- Uncritical imitation - **1 Thes 5:21** Test all things; hold fast what is good.” ()

Jim's Delights! ... Scriptures we can use that provide Inspiration

1. **Gen 1:31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.
 - *God is powerful, purposeful, and good. Humanity is created with dignity and meaning.*
2. **Gen 22:12** And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."
 - *Faith trusts God even when obedience is costly; God provides what He requires.*
3. **1Sam 17:47** (*David & Goliath*) Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword & spear; for the battle is the LORD's, & He will give you into our hands
 - *Faith in God outweighs fear of overwhelming opposition.*
4. **1Kings 18:36-39** (*Elijah on Mt Carmel*) & it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, & Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel & I am Your servant, & that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, & that You have turned their hearts back to You again." Then the fire of the LORD fell & consumed the burnt sacrifice, & the wood & the stones & the dust, & it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; & they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"
 - *God alone is true; He answers prayer and reveals His glory.*

5. **Dan 6:18- 22** Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the



morning & went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel & shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; &

also, O king, I have done no wrong before you

- *God honours steadfast faith & preserves those who trust Him... & boys never grow out of reading stories of heroes & Lions!*

5. **Mat 28:1-6** Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. & the guards shook for fear of him, & became like dead men. But the angel answered & said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

- *Christ's victory over sin & death secures salvation & eternal hope*



6. **Gen 6:22** Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

- *Obedient faith in a corrupt generation; salvation comes through trusting God's word.*

7. **Ruth 1:16-17** But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you & me."

- *Covenant loyalty, God's care for the faithful, & redemption through a kinsman*

8. **1Sam 1:19** (*Hannah's Prayer & Samuel's birth*) ... & the LORD remembered her.

- *God hears fervent prayer and exalts the humble.*

9. **Ki 22:16-20** (*Josiah & the book of the law*) "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read— because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.' But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard— **because your heart was tender**, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD. Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, & you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; & your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.'" So they brought back word to the king.

- *Revival begins with submission to God's revealed Word.*

10. **Job 13:15** Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him...

- *God is worthy of trust even when His purposes are hidden; restoration follows perseverance.*

While the NKJV doesn't use the word "inspiration" in the modern sense of "**motivation**" or "**being uplifted**," the Bible emphasizes being **encouraged, strengthened, renewed, and set apart** in God's Word and Spirit, which is the foundation of true inspiration.

In Scripture, being inspired means:

- God-breathed truth shaping the mind
- The Spirit stirring the heart
- Strength to endure
- Boldness to obey
- Hope to persevere
- Words to speak and works to do