

Inspiration of the Bible



What is That?

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*Hard
questions,
honest
answers*

INSPIRATION

By Alden Thompson

- Did every fact and idea in the Bible come straight from God?
- What about apparent inconsistencies in the Bible?
- If we read the Bible too closely, could we find something that will destroy our faith?
- How much freedom do we have to interpret the Bible?



❖ **inerrancy**

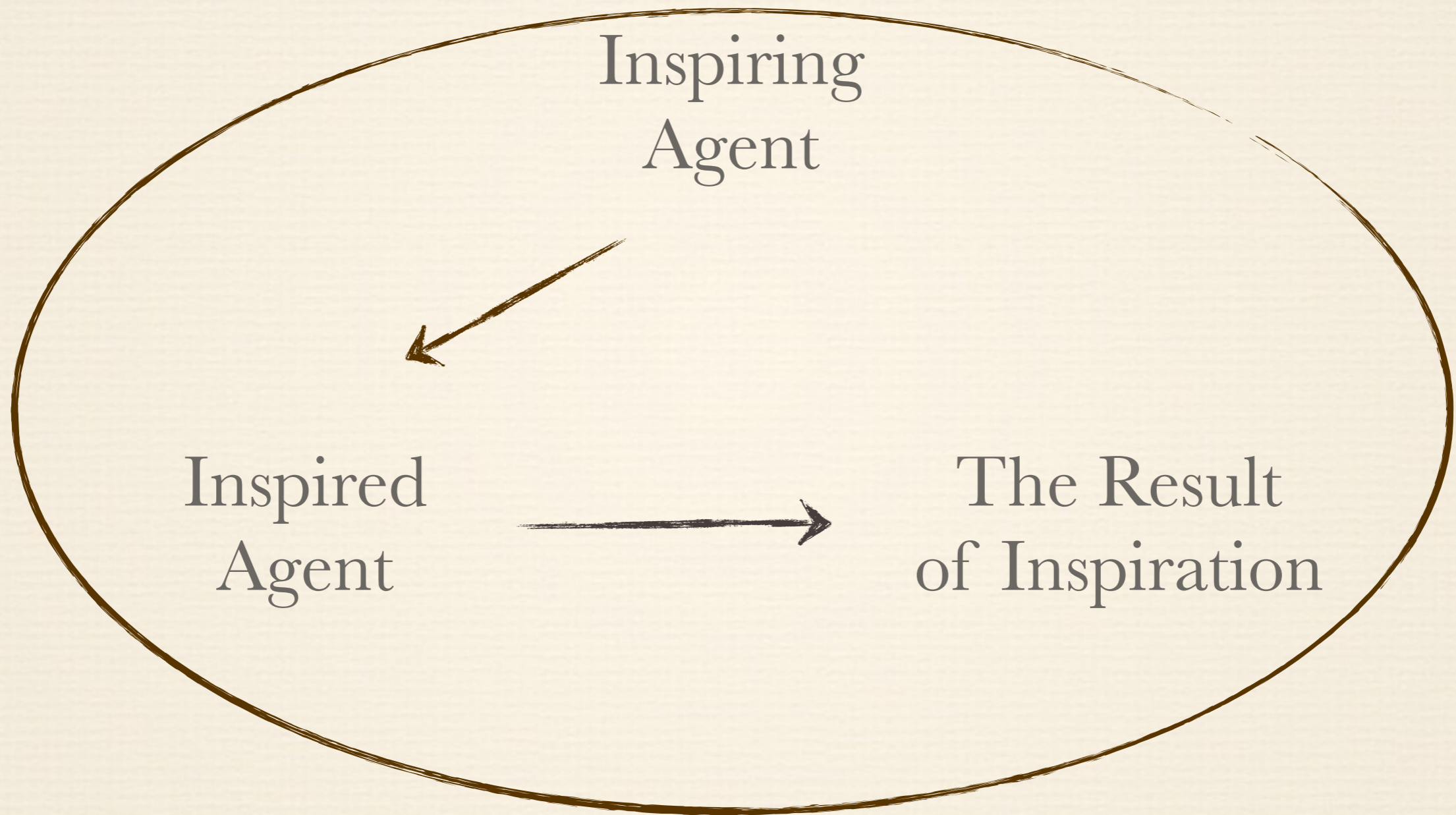
❖ **infallibility**

❖ **trustworthiness**

❖ **reliability**

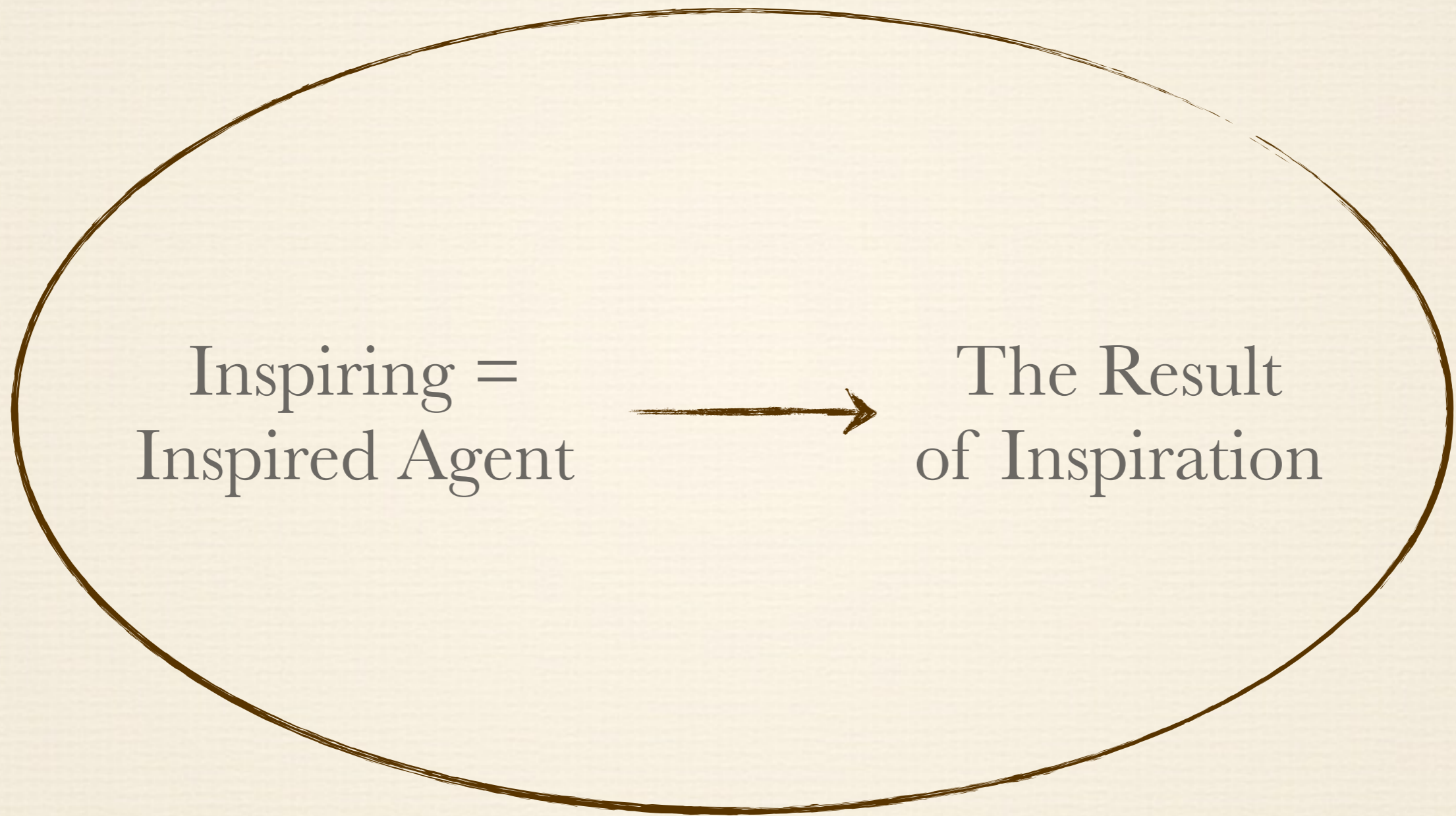
❖ kind of defense

A Tripartite Structure



DIVINE INSPIRATION

A Bipartite Structure



HUMAN INSPIRATION

Old Testament Authors

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel's singer of songs. ***The Spirit of the LORD spoke*** through me; ***his word*** was on my tongue. ***The God of Israel spoke***, the ***Rock of Israel said*** to me.... [etc.]

2 Sam 23: 1-3

New Testament Authors

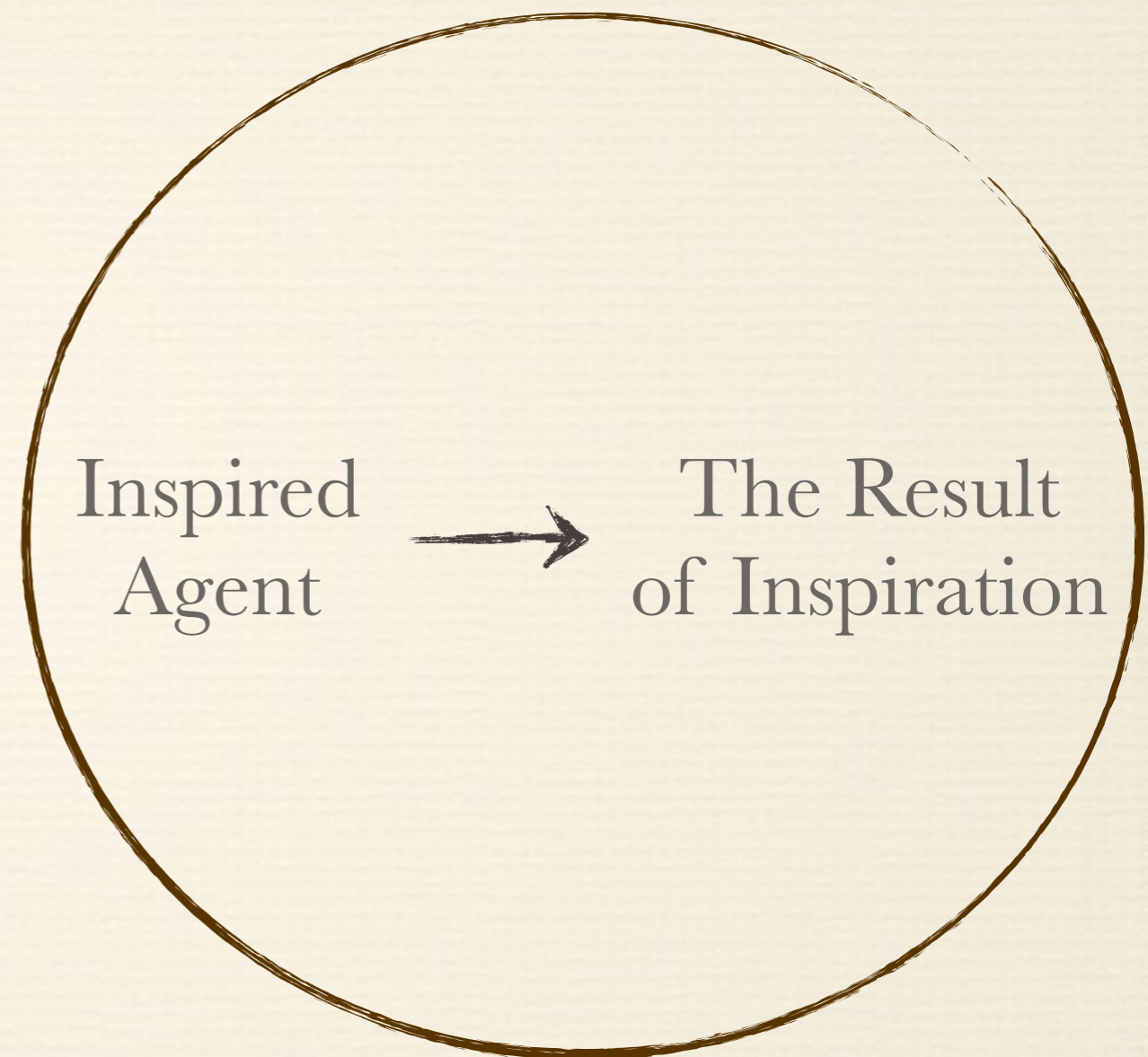
Scripture is ***God-breathed*** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Tim 3:16

The Difference between Human and Divine Inspiration

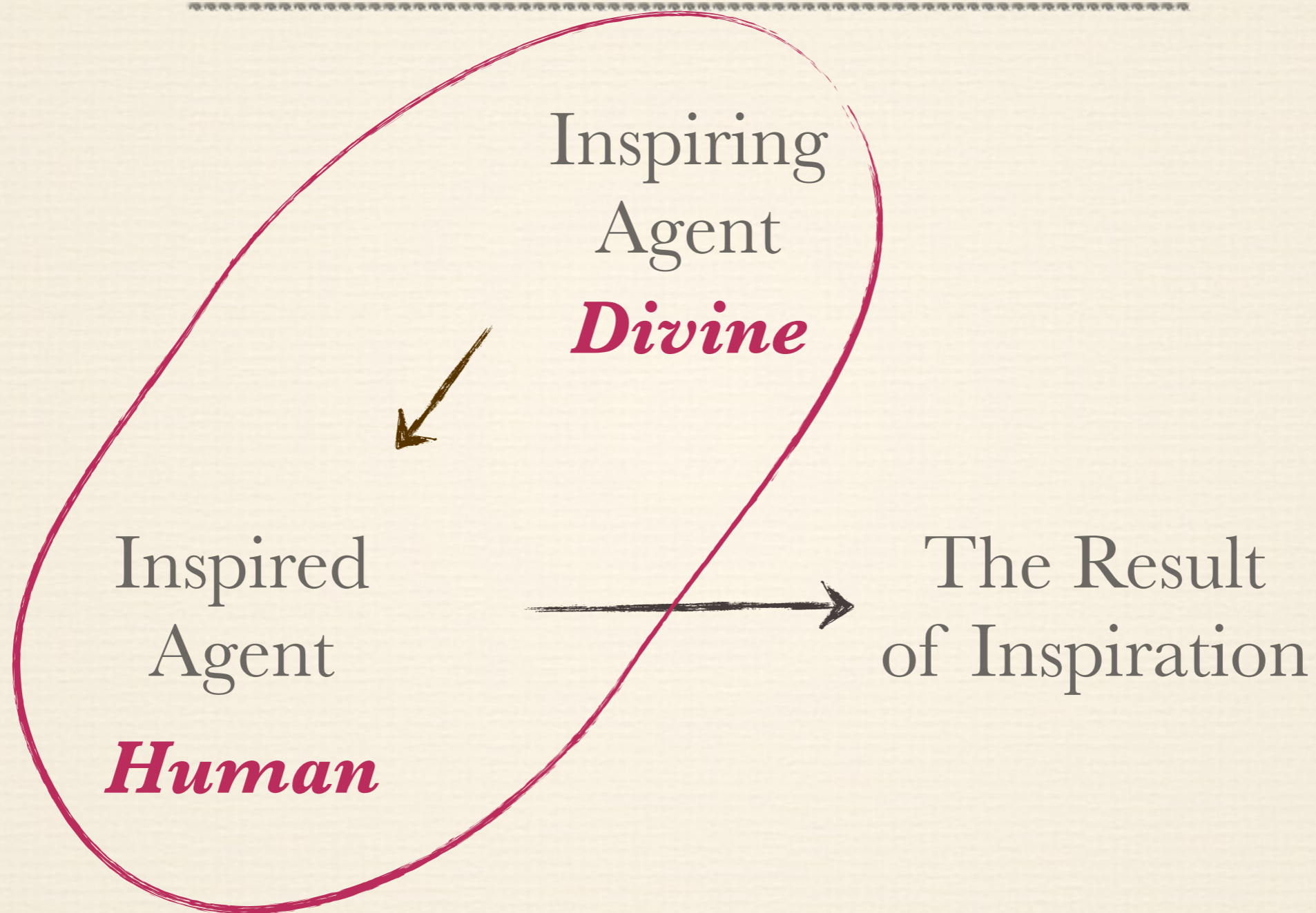


DIVINE INSPIRATION



HUMAN INSPIRATION

A Tripartite Structure of Biblical Inspiration



Christological analogy

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and ***the Word was God***. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:1-2

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

A Tripartite Structure of Biblical Inspiration



Recognize but not Separate

Boundaries of Biblical Inspiration

The fact that Scripture has *divine nature* means that it is **not errant**.



The fact that Scripture has *human nature* means that it is **not inerrant**.

But we have this ***treasure*** in ***jars of clay*** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Cor 4:7.

The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. Inspiration acts *not on man's words* or his expressions, but *on the man himself*. The ***divine mind*** and will is combined with the ***human mind*** and will, thus the utterances of the man are the ***word of God***

Ellen G. White, 1 SM 21

Where am I?

Inspiring Agent



Inspired
Agent



The Bible



The Reader

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father
will send in my name, will *teach you all things* and will
remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26

Where am I?

Inspiring Agent
The Holy Spirit



Apostles



Gospels

DIVINE INSPIRATION

Formation

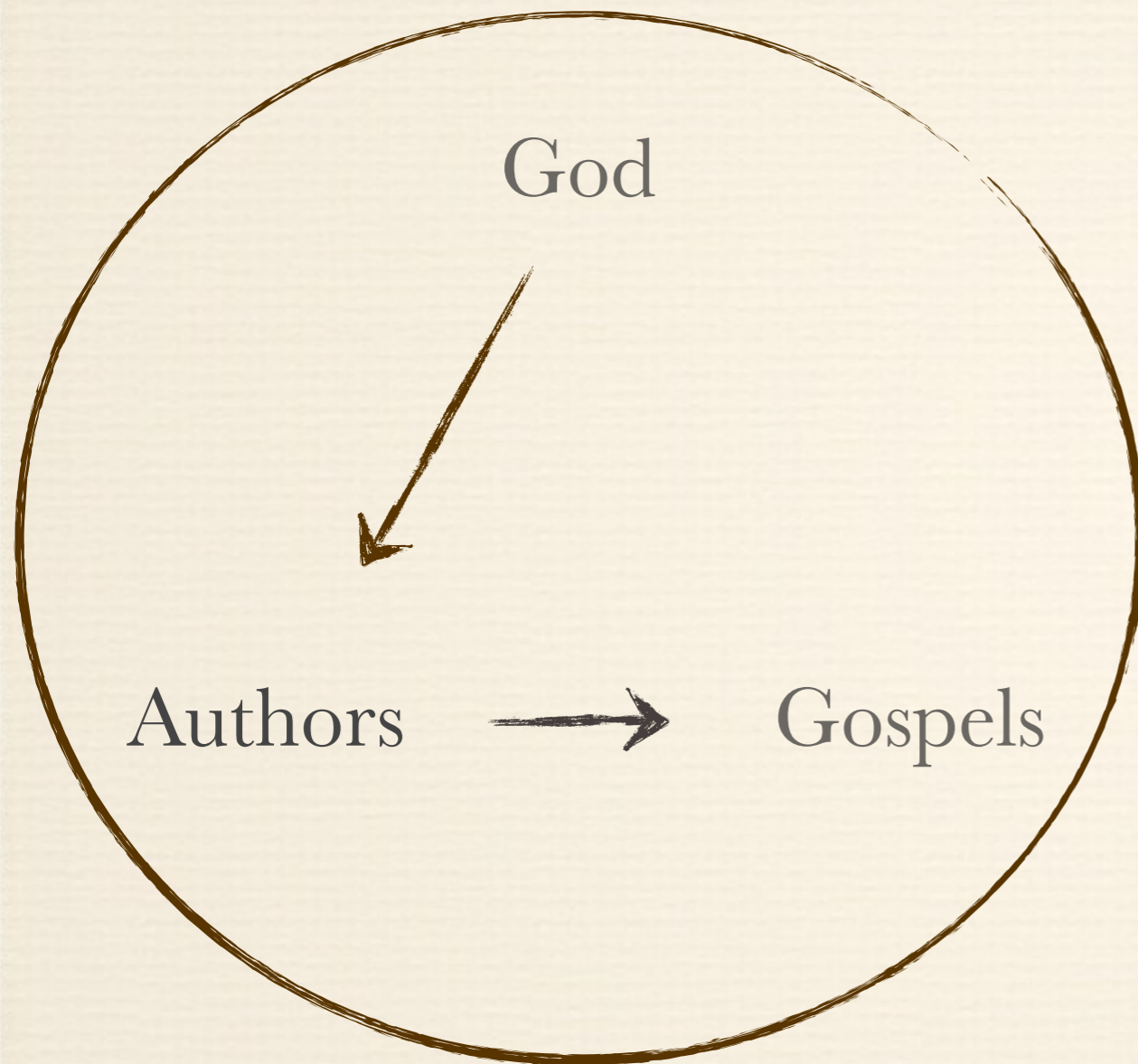
Illuminating Agent
The Holy Spirit



The Reader

DIVINE ILLUMINATION

Interpretation



I am not ashamed of the
gospel, because it is the
power of God for the
salvation of everyone who
believes: first for the Jew,
then for the Gentile

Rom 1:17