

who has been seeking to give his message prayerfully. It is normally through men that the Spirit works.

In ancient days there were those who regarded the Bible as a magical book. They expected it to do the work itself and hardly dared handle it for good. Their view was wrong, but it was no more wrong than that of many believers today who fail as "teachers" of the Word. They have forgotten that man has a responsibility to the character of the Bible, and their absentmindedness has cost much blessing. May we all today be "hearers and doers."

## Problems in the Composition of the Bible

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Suppose your grandmother had been a very famous cook and had an especially well-known recipe for cherry pie. Like many older cooks she carried this recipe in her head. She knew exactly how to make the pie and rarely made a poor one. But as grandmother grew older her daughters wanted the recipe so that it might be passed down to family members. At last she wrote one copy and gave it to the eldest daughter, who would share it with the others. The eldest daughter kept the original recipe, and each of the sisters made copies. As each sister copied, she changed certain small points in accord with the way she thought grandmother had made the pie. In the end all of the daughters had a good recipe, but only one was genuine and eventually it was lost. The only way to restore the original recipe would be to collect and compare all the copies. The best one could do would be to