

Listening to God

Introduction

One of the most compelling truths about the God of the Bible is the fact that He is a 'speaking God.' Nine times in the very first chapter of the Bible we read the words "*and God said*" (Genesis 1vs3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26,29). We also discover that what God said always came to pass in exactly the manner that God intended (note the repeated phrase *and it was so* and the use of the word *good* i.e. according to plan in Genesis 1). What was true in the beginning remains true throughout Biblical history. As the writer of the letter to the Hebrews reflects on Biblical history he says: "*in the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son*" (Hebrews 1vs1-2). The God who spoke in the beginning continued to speak, first through His prophets and finally and fully in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is the *Word made Flesh* (John 1vs14). God's relationship with His world can thus be described as *word-shaped*. The fact that God is a speaking God means that we must be a listening people. What that means in practice is the focus of the questions that follow below.

Study Questions

Read 2 Timothy 3vs15-17. Answer the following questions from the text.

1. How much of Scripture (i.e. the Bible) is God-breathed?
2. Who is thus the ultimate author of the Bible?
3. What is Scripture "able to do?" How does it do this?

4. What does the Bible do for those who are Christians?

Think it Through

1. What does 2 Timothy 3vs15-17 teach us about
 - a. The Truth of the Bible?
 - b. The Sufficiency of the Bible?

Study Questions

Read Hebrews 3vs7-4vs12, James 1vs16-25. Answer the following questions from the passage.

1. In what way is God's Word living and active?
2. What should we therefore **not do** when it comes to the Scriptures?
What should we be careful to do?
3. How should we respond to the fact that God gives us new life through His word?

Think it Through

1. What changes do you need to make in the light of what we have learned about the Bible ?