



QUESTION 1

Readings from the Old Testament: Isa. 1.10; Jer. 1.4; Ezek. 1.3; Hos. 1.1; Joel 1.1; Amos 5.1; Mic. 1.1. New Testament: 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 3:15-16.

QUESTION 2

If you do believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God can you answer the question of why you believe it? Could you explain it to someone with out using any Christian type language or lingo?

QUESTION 3

How should our beliefs about God's word shape our lives and how we interact with the text? What are some practical steps we could take today to make it more of priority? What are your questions about the Bible?

QUESTION 4

Are there any habits or routines that you have when it comes to reading the Bible - what have you tried, what has worked or not worked? How can you encourage others to spend more time in God's word?

GOING DEEPER

In the OT, "the word of the Lord" was the typical designation of the prophetic oracles (Isa. 1:10; Jer. 1:4; Ezek. 1:3; Hos. 1:1; Joel 1:1; Amos 5:1; Mic. 1:1), and for that reason we might conclude that the author is about to present some prophecy that was given through a Christian prophet such as Silas. But in the NT, the "word of the Lord" is not used this way. Instead of designating that which the Lord Jesus says through prophetic inspiration, the phrase refers to the message of the gospel that is proclaimed (Acts 12:24; 13:49; 15:35-36; 19:10; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Thess. 3:1) or to a teaching that was given by the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry (Acts 20:35), whether or not this teaching was incorporated into the Gospels.

The OT was accepted as inspired both by the NT writers and by all their Jewish contemporaries. Our Lord Himself appeals to the OT as a final authority (Mt 19:4, Jn 5:46). The inspiration of the NT stands on a somewhat different footing. The supreme instance of inspiration is our Lord Himself (Lk 4:17-21); and He is also its source to His followers. At His Baptism, Jesus was formally called to, and equipped for, His ministry; and His equipment consisted in His receiving the fulness of the Holy Spirit. Under the influence of this Spirit all His works were done and all His words spoken (Jn 3:34). 'My teaching is not mine, but His that sent me' (7:16); 'as the Father has taught me, I speak these things' (8:28). And it is His words, spoken under the influence of the Divine Spirit, that form the nucleus of the NT Canon.