

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

Part 3 of 4: Word of God, Speak

John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

*The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

*3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.*

*4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.*

*5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

-How many books of the bible are there? _____

-How many books are in the Old Testament? _____

-How many books are in the New Testament? _____

-How many gospels are there? _____

-What is the first book of the bible? _____

-What is the last book of the bible? _____

-What is the shortest book in the bible? _____
with 219 words.

-What is the longest book in the bible? _____
with 33,002 words.

These books were written over a _____ year period in three languages: Hebrew,
_____ (the language Jesus spoke), and _____.

In Israel the Book of Deuteronomy was adopted as the Word of God about 621 B.C. The Torah, or Law (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible), assumed authority around 400 B.C.; the Prophets about 200 B.C.; and the Writings about 100 B.C. After a struggle the Christians determined that the Hebrew Bible was Scripture for them as well. The New Testament as we know it was formed and adopted by church councils between A.D. 200 and A.D. 400.

(1) We hold that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God, that they were filled with God's Spirit as they wrote the truth to the best of their knowledge.

(2) We hold that God was at work in the process of canonization, during which only the most faithful and useful books were adopted as Scripture.

(3) We hold that the Holy Spirit works today in our thoughtful study of the Scriptures, especially as we study them together, seeking to relate the old words to life's present realities.

Perhaps the Bible is best put to use when we seriously answer these four questions about a given text:

(1) What did this passage mean to its _____?

(2) What part does it play in the Bible's total _____?

(3) What does _____ seem to be saying to my life, my community, my world, through this passage?

(4) What _____ should I consider making as a result of my study?