

God has revealed himself through general revelation and special revelation.

- **God's Word in the Heavens.** Psalm 19:1-2, Romans 1:19-20
 Describe a time when you sensed God's glory revealed in creation.
- **God's Word in our Hearts.** Romans 2:15
 Describe a time when your heart was flooded with a sense of God's moral justice.
- **God's Word in our Hands.** 2Timothy 3:14-17
 Do you remember the first physical copy of God's Word you really read for yourself the first time? Is it special to you? Why or why not? Do you mark in your bible? Why or why not?

1) God's Word is eternally true. 2Timothy 3:16-17

- **The Inspiration of the Bible** - The influence of the Holy Spirit on the writers of Scripture, which resulted in their written words actually being the words of God.
- **The inerrancy of the Bible** – The Bible is completely truthful in all that it says, without any mixture of error.

We believe in the inerrant, infallible, verbal, plenary, inspiration of the Bible. Do you wholeheartedly affirm this statement? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 5:17-19. What did Jesus believe about the Bible? Would Jesus affirm the statement above?

Have recent attacks on the bible in media and education circles caused you to lose any confidence in it?

What is at stake if the Bible is not true?

2) God's Word is abundantly clear. 2Peter 1:16-21

- **The Perspicuity Clarity of the Bible** - The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures and can be understood by all who have ears to hear it.

Have you mistakenly thought it is an act of humility to be less than certain that the bible is the revelation of God's will and ways? Why is this actually a form of pride?

The bible is clear enough for a child to understand its message and be saved. Can you clearly state the message of the Bible in a single sentence? Go!

What parts of the bible are less clear to you? Where could you find help to gain greater clarity in these areas? Should you make an effort to gain more clarity in these areas? How would it help you if you did?

Peter actually saw the glory of Jesus and heard the audible voice of God but said we have a "word more fully confirmed" in the scriptures. What does this tell us about the superior authority

of the written word over mystical experiences? Are you prone to value mystical experiences more than the written word of God?

3) God's Word is entirely essential. Romans 10:13-17

- **The Necessity of the Bible** - We cannot truly know God, his will, or the way of salvation apart from the Bible.

What do you need the Bible for...this week?

Is your faith weak? What is it the fuel for faith?

Is your faith growing? Is your exposure to the Word of God growing?

4) God's Word is absolutely final. Hebrews 4:12, 3:7

- **The Authority of the Bible** - The Bible, as the expression of God's will to us, has the right to define what we are to believe and how we are to behave.

Discuss this statement: *"To disbelieve or disobey the Bible is to disbelieve or disobey God."*

Discuss this statement: *"As the Word of God, the Bible has the right to define what I believe and determine how I behave."*

Discuss this statement: *"Every time we hear God's Word it calls for a response."*

5) God's Word is definitely enough. Hebrews 1:1-4

- **The Sufficiency of the Bible** - The Bible is a finished book; containing everything we need for living, as God desires us to live.
- **The Illumination of the Bible** - The work of the Holy Spirit in helping the hearer or the reader of the Bible to understand its meaning and to be convinced of its truth.

Jesus is the clearest express of the revelation of God. What name does John give Jesus in John 1:1, 14? What advantage do we have living on 'this side' of the life of Jesus that the Old Testaments saints did not have? List things that Jesus specifically revealed about the nature of God.

Read Revelation 21:18-19. What's the danger of seeking revelation outside of the Bible?

Do you feel like the Bible gives you enough information to confidently make God-pleasing in the most practical areas of your life? What are those areas? Do you know where to find out what God says about those areas in the Bible?

Do you sense the Holy Spirit's work of illumination as you read your Bible? How?

Read Psalm 119:18 Do you ask for the Spirit's help as your read the Bible?

Read Jeremiah 15:16. Is reading the Bible more like eating vegetables, cereal, or a Krispy Kreme Doughnuts to you?