

# Tough Questions about the Bible

What about the other writings in that time period? Why aren't they scripture? In other words, how did we get our Bible? Let's just deal with the New Testament for now.

## How we got the NT

The early church fathers used 6 tests to recognize if a writing was from God.. They RECOGNIZED it was from God, they didn't DETERMINE it.

1. *Was the book written by a prophet of God?* \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Was the writer confirmed by "acts of God"?*....\_\_\_\_\_

3. *Did the message tell the truth about God?* \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Does the writing have the transformative power of God?*....\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Was it accepted by the original people of God?* \_\_\_\_\_

6. *Did the people who knew of the alleged events of a 'new' writing have a chance to falsify them?* A book's events must have occurred within the lifetime of the prophets of God, so that they could judge them. Therefore, someone who appears with a 'new' gospel after 100 AD, could not have their gospel tested because the eyewitnesses of Jesus life, death & resurrection would not be alive to affirm or deny its claims. This is why Luke said Luke 1:1-4 & Peter could say 2Peter 1:16 & Paul could prove the resurrection of Jesus by saying 1Corinthians 15:1-4.

Many of the Gnostic Gospels fall into this category of being written after 100 AD. They also have revealed NEW ideas about God & Jesus and a host of other basic biblical ideas (creation, sin, the fall, etc.)