



Discovering God's Word (Part-1)

HOLY
BIBLE



2 Timothy 3:16, 17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



2 Peter 1:20,21

*20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of
Scripture is of any private interpretation,
21 for prophecy never came by the will of
man, but holy men of God spoke as they
were moved by the Holy Spirit.*



1, To rightly divide the Word

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



2, To Know our Lord for who He really is

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.



3, To validate what we are being taught

Acts 17:10-12

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.



4, To help others understand, receive and apply God's Word

Acts 8:27-31

30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked



4, To help others understand, receive and apply God's Word

Nehemiah 8:1-8

8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading..



4, To help others understand, receive and apply God's Word

Ezra 7:10, 11

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek (= study) the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

11 "Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments



Different Ways To Study The Word

1, Passage Study (chapter, chapters)

where you study a chapter(s) or a passage and try to understand that portion of Scripture



Different Ways To Study The Word

2, Book Study

study of a particular book of the Bible, looking at it from its historical, cultural and theological setting



Different Ways To Study The Word

3, Word Study

study of a particular word e.g. Faith, Grace, Sin, Love, etc. where you look up all references that have that word and draw up a complete picture of what the Bible says



Different Ways To Study The Word

4, Topical Study

very similar to word study, but you look at all passages that deal with that particular topic (subject, theme) e.g. divine healing, family, etc. and draw up a complete picture of what the Bible says



Different Ways To Study The Word

5, Character Study

where we study the life of a person in the Bible, look at how he/she walked with God, how God worked in their lives, lessons we can learn, etc.



Five Basic Steps

There are five simple steps we can use when we study God's Word :

**Observation, Interpretation,
Application, Journaling, Reflection**



Five Basic Steps

1, Observation - What does it say?

Who, What, When, Where, Why,
How.

Understanding historical and cultural
contexts are important.



Five Basic Steps

2, Interpretation - What does it mean?

Interpreting Scripture requires dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit and the use of sound judgment and reason.



Five Basic Steps

2, Interpretation - What does it mean?

Martin Luther (1438-1546)

Obscure passages are to be understood in light of clear passages. Scripture is its own interpreter. This is the true method of interpretation which puts Scripture



Five Basic Steps

2, Interpretation - What does it mean?

John Calvin (1509-1564)

It is the first business of an interpreter to let his author say what he does say, instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say.



Five Basic Steps

3, Application – How does it apply to me?

What is the Lord speaking to me through His Word?

How do I apply this in my life?



Five Basic Steps

4, Journaling – Write down your thoughts?

5, Reflection (Meditation) - Connect your real life experience with your discovery of God's Word. Relate the two.



Getting Started

1, Ask for God's Guidance

Psalm 119:18 Isaiah 66:2

Luke 24:44,45

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

45 And He opened their understanding,



Getting Started

2, Read and Re-read

3, Mark your Bible

4, Use the five basic steps :

Observation, Interpretation,

Application, Journaling, Reflection



Getting Started

5, Consider all Scriptures on the Subject

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.



Getting Started

6, Use Bible Tools for Interpretation

Tools to help study the word

A, Use a good Study Bible. [We recommend the "Spirit-Filled Life Study Bible, Jack W. Hayford, editor]

B, e-sword.net , a freely available software, helps you to quickly search for words, phrases. Includes Strong's



Getting Started

6, Use Bible Tools for Interpretation

Tools to help study the word

C, Strong's Concordance : gives you meaning of Hebrew and Greek words (e-sword.net comes built in with the Strong's Concordance)

D, Vine's Dictionary : helps you understand the usage of specific words (e-sword.net has the Vine's Dictionary add-on that you



Getting Started

6, Use Bible Tools for Interpretation

Tools to help study the word

E, Commentaries (history, culture) :
several of these are freely available along
with e-sword.net

F, Parallel Bible : read the same verse
in different versions. Several free and
purchased versions are available as add-



Getting Started

7, Obey God's Word

All revelation is to empower us to obedience.



Getting Started

Which version?

While you are free to use what you feel most comfortable reading, bear in mind these important differences.



Getting Started

Which version?

| Literal Editions | Meaning-to-meaning versions | Paraphrased Bibles |
|--|---|---|
| <p>to establish sound doctrine the first choice of versions should be a more-literal edition. These are more direct translations of the original language.</p> <p><i>New King James Version, New American Standard Bible</i></p> | <p>These can be valuable, as secondary sources, to put the Scriptures into more-understandable wording.</p> <p><i>New International Version, Revised English Bible, Good News Bible, Jerusalem Bible.</i></p> | <p>Paraphrased versions can be described as an interpretive translation. Caution is necessary in working with this text, because the authors exercised poetic license to transform some basic terms according to their own ideas.</p> <p><i>The Living Bible,</i></p> |



Coming up:

Next week we will learn about important guidelines on interpreting Scripture, understand the difference between "illumination" and "personal revelation"