

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF

By Jeremias Antonetty

THE BIBLE IS INFALLIBLE

The Bible in itself is without error and complete and sufficient. Psalms 119 says that the word of God is perfect.

There are four dynamic effects of the word of God in Psalms 119 and they are as follows:

- A. The word must be perfect in order to: revive the soul**

- B. The word must be trustworthy in order to: make the simple wise**

- C. The word must be right in order to: give joy to the heart**

- D. The word must be radiant in order to: give light to the eyes**

THE BIBLE IS INERRANT

The word of God is 100% pure in all its parts. In the book of 2 Timothy

A. All Scripture is God inspired

That means God spoke it and it is reliable

B. It teaches

That means it teaches us wisdom, principles, divine standards, and divine truth.

C. It rebukes

That means you're able to go to someone and say, "You are out of line. You can't behave like that; there's a standard and you are not keeping it

D. It brings correction

now that you rebuked the person that was out of lined, you can now say do this instead of what you were doing. This is the right path.

E. It trains for righteousness

This shows us the right way to walk, the right way to talk, the right way to act, and the right way to think.

F. It thoroughly equips for every good work

Further more, the word of God will prepare us for the purpose that God called us to. If we follow what the Bible says we will be thoroughly equipped ready for any thing that we encounter.

THE BIBLE IS COMPLETE

The Bible is complete and lacks nothing. Nothing needs to be added. Many people believe that the Bible was written for the people of long ago, and therefore it is not applicable to us today. They feel that the Bible is:

A. Out dated

B. We need a Bible for today

C. There are some things that need be taken out

THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE

Since the Bible is infallible, without error and complete it stands to reason that it is final in itself. In the book of Isaiah it says, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken." When God speaks everybody listens, because his is the final authority; the Bible demands obedience.

GOD SAID

Gen 1:3

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (NKJ)

Gen 1:6

6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." (NKJ)

Gen 1:9

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. (NKJ)

Gen 1:11

11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. (NKJ)

Gen 1:14

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; (NKJ)

Gen 1:20

20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." (NKJ)

THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT

Paul told Timothy that the Scriptures was sufficient to make him wise unto salvation. 2 Timothy 3:15. So many are turning to other sources for their instruction, rather than to trust the word of God as their only source of information.

THE BIBLE IS EFFECTIVE

The Bible is powerful and effective enough to transform and completely change a life around. The Lord spoke about the effect of his word that goes forth from out of his mouth. The science of circulatory will illustrate the effect of his word. In the book of Isaiah Chapter 55:10-11, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". The word is very effective.

THE BIBLE IS DETERMINATIVE

The Bible is determinative because how you respond to the word of God determines the essence of your life and your eternal destiny.

A. Your hearing effects your destiny

Jesus said, "He that is of God hears God's word; you therefore, hear them not, because you are not of God."

In other words, the determination of whether an individual is of God or not of God is based on whether he listens to the word of God.

B. Your hearing effects your mind

The only way for a mind to be transformed is through the word of God. This transformation will happen when we determine to listen and submit ourselves to the word of God. The carnal mind cannot submit to the truth of God's word because it is mastered by the sinful nature, but the mind that is full with the Holy Spirit can totally give way to the word because the power of Satan is broken.

WE LEARN BY PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

In the first letter of John there is a tremendous progressive reception of the word of God as it unfolds to us by revelation. And they are as follows.

A. We hear

It's vital and most important that we hear the word of God continually and retain its truth in our minds. Jesus said, "He that has an ear hear". Once when Jesus was about to speak, it came about that the multitude pressed in to hear the word of the Lord.

The multitude listens to the Word

Luke 5:1

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, (NKJ)

we are blessed when we hear the word and keep it

Luke 11:28

28 But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (NKJ)

B. We see

We are so blessed that we can actually see the word of the Lord being fulfilled right before our own eyes. Jesus once was addressing the religious leaders of his day because they were doubting the authenticity of his claim as the light of the world. The Pharisees claimed to be the descendants of Abraham and that they were never in slavery. They could not see that they had rejected the very Son of God, the living word, the word in the flesh.

Jesus told them that, "Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

Matt 13:16-17

16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

17 "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

(NKJ)

Jer 2:31

31 "O generation, see the word of the LORD! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of darkness? Why do My people say, `We are lords; we will come no more to You'? (NKJ)

C. We look

God wants us to look, searched for him diligently as one pans for gold, or as one searches for silver. It should be our good pleasure to seek into God's word for ourselves. He has reserved wonderful things for his children in his word.

We see the in psalms 77:6 that in the night he calls to remembrance his godly song to his heart.

As we look at God's word we must do two things Ps 77:6

A. We must meditate

I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart,

B. We must be diligent

and my spirit makes diligent search.

C. Search from the book

The prophet Isaiah tells us to search from the book of the Lord

Isa 34:16

"Search from the book of the LORD, and read: not one of these shall fail; not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them. (NKJ)

D. Seek and you will find

The Lord admonishes the prophet Jeremiah to call upon him

Jer 29:13

**And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
(NKJ)**

E. Herod told the wise man to seek out the child

Matt 2:8

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." (NKJ)

After you, hear, look and seek you will most definitely touch the living word.

F. We touch

When we touch the living word there is healing for the whole person. Everyone who touched Jesus was healed from all their infirmities.

The woman with the issue

Matt 9:21

21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." (NKJ)

when they recognized Jesus they wanted to touch him

Matt 14:35-36

35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all

who were sick,

36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well. (NKJ)

All who were afflicted were healed by touching him

Mark 3:10

10 For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. (NKJ)

I shall be made well." (NKJ)

All who touched the hem of his garment were made well

Mark 6:56

56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well. (NKJ)

The multitude sought to touch him for power went out of him

Luke 6:19

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. (NKJ)

Prov 2:1-5

A. My son, if you receive my words

B. and treasure my commands within you,

C. So that you incline your ear to wisdom,

D. and apply your heart to understanding;

E. Yes, if you cry out for discernment,

F. and lift up your voice for understanding,

G. If you seek her as silver,

H. and search for her as for hidden treasures;

I. Then you will understand the fear of the LORD,

J. and find the knowledge of God.

THE FIVE FINGERS RULE

A. Emphasized Text

B. Repeat Text

C.Relate Text

**D. Text that are Alike_____ as a deer pants: SO MY SOUL LONGS Ps 42:1
as new born babes: LONG FOR THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD 1PETER2:2**

**E. Text that are Unlike_____ MATT 5 you have heard that it was said, BUT NOW I
SAY
GALATIANS 5:19-22 The works of the flesh are: then in verse 22 he says, BUT
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

PART 2

1. The door of interpretation
 - a. Psalms 119:34 "Give me understanding
 - b. That I may observe your law
 - c. And keep it with all my heart
- Ps 25:4-5
- d. Show me thy ways, O LORD
- e. Teach me thy paths.
- f. Lead me in thy truth, and

Jesus opens their mind

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (KJV)

CONTENT

The content is the raw material the database with which you will interpret the text.

Remember to look for

- a. Terms
- b. Structure
- c. Literary form
- d. Atmosphere
- e. Observation

CONTEXT

Context refers to that which goes before and that which follows after.

Read and examined the third letter of John

- a. I love in the truth
- b. I pray
- c. faithfulness to the truth
- d. walking in the truth
- e. faithful in what you are doing
- f. they have told the church
- g. for the sake of the name
- h. work together for the truth
- I. loves to be first

- j. I will call attention**
- k. do not imitate evil**
- l. by the truth itself**
- m. I have much to write**
- n. talk face to face**

LITERARY CONTEXT

Words before and after. Also that which relates to something, or dealing with something.

Acts Chapter

6:7 the word

6:8 the man

6:9 the persecution

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

a. When studying the historical context we must look for

b. When it took place?

c. Where does this passage fit in history?

d. What else was taking place in the world at this time?

e. What were some of the social, political, and technological inferences on the writer and on those to whom he was writing

CULTURAL CONTEXT

Know about the culture around the time of the writing

a. speech

b. clothes

c. practices

d. music

e. foods

f. dancing

GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Geography is very important in order to understand the text. Investigating the geographical context enters questions such as:

- a. What was the weather like?
- b. How far was this town from places mentioned in the text?
- c. What were the transportation routes for these people?
- d. What size City was this?
- e. What was the layout of this town?
- f. What was this location known for?

THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The theological structure of the context tells of the relationship between the author and God.

The questions that are asked here are:

- a. What did this author know about God?
- b. What was the relationship of his readers to God?
- c. How did people worship him at that point?
- d. How much Scripture did the writer and his audience have access to?
- e. What other religions and worldviews were competing for influence?

THINGS TO USE IN YOUR STUDIES

CONCORDANCE

BIBLE DICTIONARIES

BIBLE HANDBOOKS

ATLASES

BIBLE COMMENTARIES

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSAGE, SUCH AS:

WHO?

WHAT?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHY?

HOW?

PART 3

**1. When reading the Bible be sure you:
write your thoughts as you read
write down words that have meaning to you
write down the main idea
write down phrases**

**2. When studying the Bible be sure to:
study the topic all the way through
write Scriptures down pertaining to the topic
be careful not to branch off**

**3. Study the letter of Philemon
what can you find out about relationships?
reconstruct the situation
what feelings might be involved?
what practical considerations?
what questions remain unanswered?
what problems does it create?
what issues does it speak to?
why do you think it is significant enough to be included in the Bible?
what issues in this book helps us to apply it today?
how would you communicate this book and the insights you gain from it?**

4. Write your own observation on each verse of Philemon.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

23. _____

24. _____

25. _____

SEVEN POINTS ON HOW TO READ THE WORD

1. Read thoroughly

Use the Sherlock method leave no stone unturned

examine clues

examine doors

examined floors

examine windows

2. Read repeatedly

The word of God has staying power

read the book in one sitting

it can take abuse reading

it can take exposure read

start at the beginning of the book

look at Acts 1:8 the word (but)

read the Bible in different translations

listen to tapes of the Bible

read the Bible of loud (Deuteronomy 6:7)

set up a schedule for Bible reading

3. Read patient

don't become a Micro-wave reader

the fruit of the word takes time to ripen

don't run to commentaries when your over your head

stay with one book at the time

zoom in and zoom out

-get the big picture

-detect the flow

4. Read selectively

use the right bait

who, what, where, when, why and how

5. Read prayerfully

don't try to imitate other Christians

turn Scripture into prayer

6. Read imaginatively
read Philippians Chapter 1

7. Read meditatively
read Joshua Chapter 1
read Proverbs Chapter 2:1-5

PART 4

It's one thing to study and read the Bible, but it's another thing to apply it to your life. Many study the Bible for what it's worth, but not many live a life worthy of its context. The apostle James tells us that we should not be only hearers but doers of the word.

The word of God is profitable for every area of life. People run into all kinds of problems and different kinds of situations in which they have to make decisions. How they handle the situation is determined by the way they confront it. The word of God gives us clear direction for every circumstance, all we have to do is pray and asked God to show us his method.

THE WORD OF GOD

The word of God is visual

Gen 15:1

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (NKJ)

The word of God gives us clear direction for the future

Gen 15:4

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." (NKJ)

The word of God will be fulfilled in our mouths

Exod 8:13

So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. (NKJ)

The word of God purifies us

Ps 119:9

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (NKJ)

The word of God keeps us from sinning

Ps 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! (NKJ)

The word of God is delightful

Ps 119:16

I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. (NKJ)

The word of God revives

Ps 119:25

My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word. (NKJ)

The word of God strengthens

Ps 119:28

My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word. (NKJ)

The word of God establishes

Ps 119:38

Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. (NKJ)

1. Why is the word not meaningful?

The Pharisees would not come to Jesus for interpretation (Jn.5:40)

2. Why is the word not exciting?

In order for the word of God to become exciting to us we must first abandon ourselves and study diligently (2 Tim 2:15)

3. Why is the word not working for me?

The word of God will not work for us if we are not working for the word (Heb11:6)

4. Why is the word not clear to me?

In order for us to see more clearly we must ask the Lord to remove the scales from our eyes

(Acts 9:18; 2 Cor 3:13-16; Heb.10:19-20)

Make the truth attractive

Paul urges us not to make the word of God dull. If we are to win others we must first be won over.

Titus 1:1 provides a clear statement of the purpose of Scripture: Paul describes it as "The truth that leads to godliness".

Some ways we can make the word attractive

Titus 2:9

be subject to our overseers in everything

try to please them

not talk back to them

not to steal from them

show that you can be trust

Four substitutes for application

1. We substitute interpretation for application

-We can settle for knowledge rather than experience

-to know and not to do is not to know at all

-lack of involvement is not the perspective of Scripture

-you are responsible for the truth you know

Jesus said that to whom much has been given, much will be required. Matthews 13:12

Jesus also said why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46

2. We substitute superficial obedience for substantive life-change

-we apply truth to where truth is already applied

For example the businessman comes across Ephesians 4:25, which deals with the issue of honesty.

Therefore laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

The business man thinks only about the areas where he is already honest. We must ask the Lord to show us the areas where we cannot see.

3. We substitute rationalization for repentance

-we have a built-in early-morning system against spiritual change

-when truth gets too close, too convicting, an alarm goes off and we start to defend ourselves

-our strategy is to rationalize sin instead of repenting of it

4. We substitute an emotional experience for a willful decision

-we respond and depend on an emotional response rather than truth

-we respond but do not repent

PART 5
Things You Should Know

**You first must know the interpretation of the text
Interpretation is one, application is many
A few degrees off will lead you to many errors [Read 1 Timothy 4:16]**

Many people are misled because they refuse to:

- 1. study other materials**
- 2. test truth with others**
- 3. they depend upon their own understanding**
- 4. they only want to air their own opinion**
- 5. they refuse to be corrected**
- 6. they take the whole Bible word for word**
- 7. They hold their experience in honor more than the Bible**

Simple Methods of Bible Study

Choose your topic

Look up Scriptures pertaining to your topic

Make an outline of your topic

Look for figurative language

Look for literal language

Look for symbols and types

Look up words that stand out to you

Write related terms down

Underline phrases that are emphasized

Don't read into the passage

Meditate upon the passage

Memories the passage

Identify with any problems

Identify with any sins

Identify with any person

The Book of First John Chapter 1

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____