

## **Bonus Content Episode 23 - LET'S STUDY! READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.**

Ravi Zacharias said, "We have a right to believe whatever we want, but not everything we believe is right."

You are listening to Reflections from Revelation Episode 23 as we talk about **the importance of studying the Bible.**

"All religions are not the same. All religions do not point to God. All religions do not say that all religions are the same. At the heart of every religion is an uncompromising commitment to a particular way of defining who God is or is not and accordingly, of defining life's purpose." Ravi Zacharias

### **As we studied Revelation 13 we see that not all religions and gods are the same.**

- We see that there is an Antichrist and a False Prophet. This false unholy trinity (Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet) demands worship from people.
- The Bible declares to us that Jesus is the true and living God and we are blessed when we worship Him!
- Scripture tells us that we can worship false gods, called idols.
- Only Jesus deserves our worship: **Ex 20:3** *You shall have no other gods before me.*

**It is important to understand that there are lies and false doctrines that are damaging for our soul in this world.** The bible calls this the **doctrine of demons.**

- We can be tossed to and fro from lies (**Eph 4:14**)
- We need to be careful to live according to what God has declared as truth in His Word.  
**1 Tim 4:1** *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,*

Passages like **Rev 13** that cover the antichrist and the false prophet should cause us to ask ourselves how do we apply this text? Why did God give us this text?

**One of the applications for us today is for us to know the truth and not be deceived now by these beasts.**

- We should be walking according to God's Spirit and scripture and not according to false ideology, doctrines of demons and the Antichrist.

**1 John 4:1-4** *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

- John wants us to TEST all spirits and we do this by testing everything according to God's Word.
- This is why it is so important to be men and women of the Word so we can know and recognize lies! The father of all lies comes as an angel of light to deceive and the many false religions sound good and familiar but they are built on deception. EXAMPLE: Bankers can recognize counterfeits by dealing with and handling the real thing. False things are exposed.
- This is why the bible encourages us to study for ourselves and to handle the truth wisely.

**2 Tim 2:15** *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

- We become students of God's Word, to protect our souls from the lies of the enemy.

"The more you hold on to the true and the good, the more you are free to really live." Ravi Zacharias

- False prophets and the spirit of the Antichrist are a reality in the here and now.
- Knowing the Bible is helpful for us to live in this reality and to recognize Satan's lies and counterfeits.
- Knowing God's Word which is truth will help us live in victory!

### **This is why it is so important for us as a church to go through the books of the bible and to study them!**

- The ultimate goal is for us is to follow Jesus through His Word. He is the final authority.
- Don't just conform to what is taught but know what God says. EXAMPLE: PAUL & The Bereans: **(Acts 17:10-15)** 11 "...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."
- Students of the bible should confirm that the interpretations and teachings that we hear align with the Word of God.
- Test all spirits in diligence and for the wellness of our own soul to make sure we are following the true and living God and not worshipping idols!

### **3 helpful tips to help you study the Bible for yourself: Read, Reflect, and Respond.**

1. **READ:** In this section you want to find out what God's Word says.
2. **REFLECT:** As you discover what God's Word says, you will want to take time to consider what this teaches you about God, about life, and about yourself.
3. **RESPOND:** What will you do with what you learned? You want to try to apply what you have learned.

(From the START TO FOLLOW BOOK by Greg Laurie)

#### **1. READ - In this section you want to find out what God's Word says.**

- Studying is more than just reading BUT it does include reading.  
**1 Tim 4:13** *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*
- Some people don't like to read but it is important to our faith because before you ever study the words in scripture you simply have to read it.

"God gave us an inspired book to read and we preach sermons from it, write books about it, support scholars to study it, and establish churches and schools to teach it. Whether you accept it or not, if you're a part of the Christian church, you're a part of a community that for centuries has emphasized education as well as training." Warren Weirsbe

#### **This means the first part of our study must be to read the Bible.**

- Sadly, most statistics say that many Christians don't read the bible daily.
- Start there and take the time for the most important thing for your soul.

### **We must understand that reading the Bible has great value for our lives.**

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- This number one best seller of all history IS a SUPERNATURAL book:
  - 66 books, over 40 authors, expanding 1500 years, with three different languages and it all has one fundamental MESSAGE!
- It answers many of the fundamental questions about life, salvation, existence, God & His will, creation, etc.
- It is centered on the person and work of God.

**We must see the value in the Bible and appreciate that God has declared things to us in this way.**

- Understanding the value of the Bible creates a desire to go to His Word as IT IS FROM GOD AND FOR OUR GOOD!  
**2 Tim 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*  
**2 Pet 1:20-21** *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- **IT GIVES GUIDANCE FOR MY LIFE.**

**Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

- **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH IT.**

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

- **IT DOESN'T RETURN VOID.**

**Isa 55:10-11** *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

- **IT IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY.**

**Matt 24:35** *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

**Psalm 138:2b** *for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.*

- **IT IS TRUSTWORTHY.**

**Psalm 19:7-11** *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

- **WE READ IT TO GET TO KNOW JESUS.**

It builds our faith. **Rom 10:17** *17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

**John 20:31** *but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

**John 5:39** *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*

### **If you are missing Jesus in your Bible study time, you are missing the whole thing!**

**John 20:31** *31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- When we read the Bible, we must look to Jesus and allow it to cause us to worship Him.

This is why we need to PRAY before we read it, as we need the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us in truth. (**John 14:26**)

### **PRAY BEFORE YOU READ IT!**

I can personally testify to answered prayer in this area! I asked God to change me and to help me to read, learn, and study: AND HE DID!

**Psalms 119:18** *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*

**Psalms 25:4-5** *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

### **READ IT IN PRACTICAL WAYS:**

- Read it in context. You would never know any story if you just jumped around.
- Read through a book verse by verse as it will help you understand the context.
- Determine if the text is literal or metaphorically. Example: **Psalms 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

The bible doesn't give actual visible light BUT it does give light in the sense that it illuminates the way we should go.

Keep the metaphoric examples simple and clear and don't look for a 'secret code'.

**Read it consistently.** You only improve in life with the things you do consistently. Reading the bible is the same way.

- You can't expect to work out 4 times a year and be in good shape. Reading consistently not only helps you become a better reader, but it helps you to better understand the context.
- It is about quality and not quantity, so it is helpful to be consistent and seek to gain understanding in what you are reading.
- The bible calls itself **daily bread** so be consistent and watch how this will help you.

### **SOME OTHER PRACTICAL Tips:**

- Find a quiet spot, a comfy chair, or an uninterrupted spot.
- Read when you have energy. (morning or night)
- Connect reading to a habit you already do consistently, for example drinking coffee in the morning. Add reading the bible to your established habits.
- Choose a Systematic Reading Plan: Topics, Bible Apps, 4 chapters a day, Psalm & Proverbs, etc..
- Read the Bible book by book. Context matters, and it helps enable you to set a pace.
- Read a plan with people. (good accountability)

**WHAT HELPS YOU READ? Put into practice the habits that help you!**

2. **REFLECT** As you discover what God's Word says, you will want to take time to consider what this teaches you about God, about life, and about yourself.

- Have you ever read something and had no idea what you read?

This process is about slowing down in order to discover what the text means. Take the time to focus.

- Reading is observing but reflecting is interpreting.
- This is part of the study process where you reflect and process the text and it takes time!

**This is what the Bible calls MEDITATION.**

**Joshua 1:8** *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

**Psalms 119:97** *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.*

- We are to worship God with our minds! (**Matt 22:37**) and meditation is a part of this as we think upon the word of God.

EXAMPLE: cows eating and the process. “Chewing the cud” (by Rick Warren)

“So how do you do it? (speaking of meditation) Grab a dictionary and look up a synonym for “meditation,” and you’ll probably find the word “rumination.” You probably don’t know that word unless you happen to be a farmer. Rumination is what a cow does when she chews her cud. She rolls her cud over and over in her mouth.

That’s similar to how you meditate on Scripture. Cows eat the grass, chew it up, and send it to their stomachs pretty quickly. There it lies in the stomach, soaking up all of those acids and chemicals. Then, after a while, the cow burps it back up with a new and renewed flavor, chews on that grass and some other grass, and does the whole process over again. Cows repeat this several times. They get every ounce of nutrition out of the grass.

Biblical meditation is kind of like that; it’s thought digestion. God wants us to get every ounce of spiritual nutrition out of his Word. He wants us to chew on it, digest it, and then chew on it some more.”

**A great way to mediate on God’s Word is to: Memorize Scripture.**

**Psalms 119:11** *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

- One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring back things that we have put into our minds. He will remind us of scripture. (**John 14:26**)

**Another way to meditate on God’s word is to journal and take time to think about the text:**

- Write down your thoughts. I usually just have my bible and paper before I type things out for a message. This helps me just write my thoughts down and highlight certain words.

**A great way to reflect is to ask questions. Again, take your time with the text.**

**A great method that I use is called INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY IBS.**

- It makes you think about the passage by continuing to ask questions and just reflect on the text.
- This is commonly known as the 5 W’s: The who, what, when, where and how.
- With this process you just want to linger and listen to the Spirit and just keep observing.

Ask questions such as ‘what are the KEY words in the passage? Are there any contrast and comparisons?’ etc.

**THE HANDOUTS on this method are included at the end of the notes.**

**Next you want to not only to observe but get to a place where you start to interpret the text:**

**Ask what does it mean.**

- While observation leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God says, interpretation goes a step further and helps you understand what it means.
- To do this you want to read the passage in context of the book and the whole bible.

- What is the singular meaning of this text? Example: **Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
  - Metaphorically speaking, we understand that God's word shines in our hearts and guides us.
  - Beyond just reading it, we can reason that as David looked to God's Word for direction, I too can look to God's word for direction.

3. **RESPOND** What will you do with what you learned? You want to try to **apply what you have learned.**

- We are blessed when we respond to God's word in our lives.
- This is a very important process of our study time: **HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?**
- This is where the rubber meets the road. What are you going to do with this knowledge? **APPLICATION MATTERS!**
- We have to understand that knowledge puff up (**1 Cor 8:1**) Our studying isn't just about knowing a lot of facts from the Bible!
- Studying the Bible is about knowing God, and applying the things we learn to our lives to become more like Him and to worship Him. Jesus said: "*Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*" (**Luke 11:28**)  
**Psalm 119:2** *Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,*

**We try to emphasize this in our community groups: Application!**

- What did you learn or what have you been learning?
- How can we apply it? How can we pray for one another to ask for help to follow Jesus by applying His truth to our lives.

**It so often the little disciplines that are so hard to do faithfully but 'application' is where we grow.**

- Having loving accountability helps us grow in our faith.

**It is important for us to Go to God's Word to apply to our lives! We will be blessed!**

I'll finish with this Ravi Zacharias quote,

"To allow God to be God we must follow him for who he is and what he intends, and not for what we want or what we prefer."

And when we study our bible's we do just this.

We allow God to be God in our lives as we seek to Read, Reflect and Respond to His Word.

**Do your best to study God's Word! Study the scripture and follow God when He speaks to you! This will guard us against the spirit of the antichrist and all the false prophets that speak lies in our world today.**

# Inductive Bible Study

God's eternal, inerrant Word is your guidebook for all of life, and inductive study gives you the key to understanding that guide. Inductive study, a method that brings you directly to the Word of God apart from another's understanding or interpretation of the text, involves three skills: **observation**, **interpretation**, and **application**.

## OBSERVATION *discover what it says*

### 1 Begin with Prayer

Prayer is often the missing element in Bible study. You are about to learn the most effective method of Bible study there is. Yet apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, that's all it will be—a method.

### 2 Ask the "5 W's and an H"

As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: **Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?** These questions are the building blocks of precise **observation**, which is essential for accurate **interpretation**.

### 3 Mark key words and phrases (see figure at left)

A key word is one that is essential to the text. Key words and phrases are repeated in order to convey the author's point or purpose for writing. For example, notice that some form of the word **suffering** is used three times in 1 Peter 5. Key words can be marked using symbols, colors, or a combination of the two.

### 4 Make lists

Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts. 1 Peter 5:2,3, for example, contains a simple list regarding the role of the elder, shown by numbering the items in the text. It is also helpful to make a list of what you learn about each key word or person you mark.

### 5 Watch for contrasts and comparisons

Contrasts and comparisons use highly descriptive language to make it easier to remember what you've learned. For example, Peter compares the devil to a roaring lion in verse 8. Peter also contrasts God's attitude toward the proud and the humble.

### 6 Note expressions of time

The relationship of events in time often sheds light on the true meaning of the text. Marking them will help you see the sequence or timing of events and lead to accurate interpretation of Scripture.

### 7 Geographic Locations

Often it's helpful to mark geographical locations, which tell you where an event takes place.

### 8 Mark terms of conclusion

Words such as "therefore," "thus," and "for this reason" indicate that a conclusion or summary is being made. You may want to underline them in the text.

### 9 Identify chapter themes

The theme of a chapter will center on the main person, event, teaching, or subject of that section of Scripture. Themes are often revealed by reviewing the key words and lists you developed. Try to express the theme as briefly as possible, using words found in the text.

## The Inductive Marking Approach

IN THE EPISTLES, MARK EVERY REFERENCE TO THE AUTHOR IN ONE COLOR, AND EVERY REFERENCE TO THE RECIPIENTS IN ANOTHER

IDENTIFY LISTS

MARK KEY WORDS AND SYNONYMS, SUCH AS GOD, CHRIST, DEVIL, SUFFERING

MARK CONTRASTS

MARK TERMS OF CONCLUSION

MARK COMPARISONS

MARK EXPRESSIONS OF TIME

DOUBLE-UNDERLINE IN GREEN ALL GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

Chapter 5 Theme Be Humble & Sober; Resist & Stand Firm

5 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God, and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Peter  
1. exhorts the elders, v.1  
2. a fellow elder, v.1  
3. witness of Christ's sufferings, v.1  
4. partaker of the glory to be revealed, v.1  
5. regards Silvanus a faithful brother, v.12  
6. has written to them briefly, v.12  
7. calls Mark his son, v.13

MAKE LISTS FROM KEY WORDS AND PEOPLE.— COMPILER IN THE MARGIN

# INTERPRETATION *discover what it means*

While **observation** leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God *says*, **interpretation** goes a step further and helps you understand what it *means*. As you seek to interpret the Bible accurately, the following guidelines will be helpful:

## 1 Remember that context rules.

If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context? Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what you want it to say. Discover what the author is saying; don't add to his meaning.

## 2 Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support it. You will be able to discern whether a teaching is biblical or not. Saturate yourself in the Word of God; it is your safeguard against wrong doctrine.

## 3 Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. Therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Sometimes, however, you may find it difficult to reconcile two seemingly contradictory truths taught in Scripture, such as the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't. Simply humble your heart in faith and believe what God says, even if you can't fully understand or reconcile it at the moment.

## 4 Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.

An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is unclear or not easily understood. Because these passages are difficult to understand even when proper principles of interpretation are used, they should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.

## 5 Interpret Scripture literally.

God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value—in its natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning. Understand and recognize figures of speech and interpret them accordingly.

Consider what is being said in the light of its literary style. For example, you will find more similes and metaphors in poetical and prophetic literature than in historical or biographical books. Interpret portions of Scripture according to their literary style.

Some literary styles in the Bible are: Historical—Acts, Exodus; Prophetic—Revelation, Isaiah; Biographical—Luke; Didactic (teaching)—Romans; Poetic—Psalms; Epistle (letter)—2 Timothy; Proverbial—Proverbs

## 6 Look for the single meaning of the passage.

Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught. Unless the author of a particular book indicates that there is another meaning to what he says, let the passage speak for itself.

# APPLICATION *discover how it works*

The first step in application is to find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text. Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are then obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

Scripture will always teach what is right, show us where we are wrong, how to correct, and train us in right living; so that we are complete, fully equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Find others in your area who are studying God's Word inductively. Call 800.763.8280 or email [info@precept.org](mailto:info@precept.org)

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# The Into Thy Word Ministries Inductive Bible Study "Cheat Sheet"

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*THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON'T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!*

**STEP I: Pray: "KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:"**  
BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!

**ATTITUDE is crucial!!!** (Gal. 2:20)

- ◆ REMEMBER TO ALWAYS: BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.
- ◆ DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!.
- ◆ BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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**STEP II: Read: "HOW:" THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD**

**LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK** at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

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**STEP III: "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?!** Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

- ◆ Give the Book the "Looks:" Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, "once, then, now, will be, etc." Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So, Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?
- ◆ Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in "Bible Dictionaries."
- ◆ Consider repeated words & phrases.
- ◆ Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. "Scripture interprets scripture." Use a "Concordance."
- ◆ Notice what is being taught
- ◆ Notice the promises
- ◆ Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ Look out for types of "literary style;" history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.
- ◆ Look at different translations

**STEP IV: "SCRUTINIZE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?**

**Let God have His way with you!** Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

**Q: What is God telling me?**

- ◆ We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!
- ◆ We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.
- ◆ Be focused on Christ not ourselves.
- ◆ Be aware of the CONTEXT!!!! The "historical" and "literary" settings? What is going on?
- ◆ What is the point and train of thought?
- ◆ ANALYZE by gathering facts and all the information available to you.
- ◆ Paraphrase the passage yourself.
- ◆ What is supported?
- ◆ What are the conclusions?

**Q: How am I encouraged and strengthened?**

**Make an emotional identification into the text.** Place yourself into the text as if it is your story as if you are there!

**THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:**

- ◆ Ask what is actually being said?
- ◆ Try reading aloud!
- ◆ Consider nothing insignificant!
- ◆ Have a mentor to ask questions.
- ◆ Look for stuff to carry out in your life.
- ◆ Write down your questions
- ◆ What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ How can I model His Character?
- ◆ What is our duty?
- ◆ What is God's character?
- ◆ Make a commitment to the meaning.
- ◆ Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!
- ◆ Accept what It says: This is God's Word!

**Q: Is there a sin in my life for which confession and repentance is needed?**

## STEP V: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!!

**Q: How can I be changed so I can learn and grow?**

### THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!

- ◆ **WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?
- ◆ **WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?
- ◆ **WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?
- ◆ **WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?
- ◆ **HOW:** did it happen? How can it happen? How was something done?
- ◆ **WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

### ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Are there any commands?
- ◆ Are there any contrasts?
- ◆ Are there things repeated?
- ◆ Is there cause and effect?
- ◆ Is there a problem and solution?
- ◆ Are there any promises?
- ◆ Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?
- ◆ Notice the setting!

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## STEP VI: "KNOW IT"!!!

### START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS

**Q: What is in the way of these precepts affecting me? What is in the way of my listening to God?**

- ◆ WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?
- ◆ Be sure your information is correct!!!
- ◆ Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

### Digging Personally:

- ◆ How are you encouraged & strengthened?
- ◆ Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?
- ◆ What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?
- ◆ We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!

- ◆ We must allow God's Word to break our will and desires over to His!
- ◆ What did God say to you today?
- ◆ Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?
- ◆ Are you appreciating it?
- ◆ Are you receiving and practicing the great benefits to others around you?
- ◆ Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

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## STEP VII: "APPLICATION!!!" (Gal 5:21-26)

**Q: How does this apply to me? What will I do about it?**

- ◆ Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!
- ◆ What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?
- ◆ When will it end up in my day planner?
- ◆ Mediate over the passage

### ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What illustration can I use to remember?
- ◆ How does the truth apply to my life?
- ◆ What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?
- ◆ What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?
- ◆ How should I carry out these changes?
- ◆ **Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others. Accountability.

**Q: What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?**

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## STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART

- ◆ Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

### "You can do it!"

Keep this guide "tucked" in your Bible for reference and guidance.

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