*How to Study the Bible*

**Cultivating Discernment**

Why is it important to study the Bible scientifically?

**Four Aspect to Study the Bible**

List four basic aspects to Bible study.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

What does it mean the Proper Bible study begins with the foundation (facts) and advances progressively?

FACTS

**Gathering the Facts**

In order to gather the facts adequately we need to read and study the Bible until we recognize the \_\_\_\_\_. Often there are \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that identify the main thought in a paragraph or section of the Bible. So how can we identify these key verses or key phrases?

**READ**

Begin by \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord for a seeking attitude to obtain fresh revelation. Then, read a section of the Bible several times without any \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to what we already know concerning that section. Reading can wash us from the \_\_\_\_\_ things and past knowledge that is no longer living and operative within us (Hebrews 4:12). Reading can calm us from all the activities racing through our mind. Reading can open us to the Lord in a fresh, \_\_\_\_\_ way to allow Him to speak something practical to us.

**PRAY AND READ SIMULTANEOUSLY**

**Your Words were found and I did eat them and Your Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart**." Jeremiah 15:16

What is the ultimate purpose of the Bible as God’s Word? What is is meant to do for us? Explain.

**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.** Matthew 7:7-8

Asking, seeking, and knocking relate to finding God’s \_\_\_\_\_ or speaking regarding specific matters. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible as God’s Word is one of the most important matters that we need wisdom for.

**OUTLINE THE PORTION**

Name and briefly define 5 aspects of outlining the Bible:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

**IDENTIFYING AND STUDYING**

In our fellowship and study, we should ALWAYS try to **\_\_\_\_\_**, not with secular sources or personal opinions based on our background, our culture or our preference. To practically define the Bible by the Bible we need to consider the \_\_\_\_\_ verses, surrounding \_\_\_\_\_, the overall \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ we are studying, the \_\_\_\_\_ scope, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible. In other words, the Bible does not contradict itself nor does it mix immiscible items together; only fallen, natural human beings do that. Lastly, we can use **cross-references, study aids, word-study tools, footnotes,** and **commentaries** to help us in our study, but we should not be overly biased by them. We must let the Bible as God's Word be the central \_\_\_\_\_.

**Facts With a Proper Scope**

To determine the facts in the Bible is the most fundamental step in Bible study, and to properly study the facts we need to understand the matter of scope. Explain “scope” and give an example.

**Facts in the Proper Context**

Give two examples of not keeping the facts in the proper context.

**Typical Bible Studies Skipping the Facts**

To determine the facts in the Bible is crucial and fundamental to Bible study. Facts annul personal \_\_\_\_\_. Facts kill \_\_\_\_\_ thinking. Facts confirm reasonable thought and logic. Yet, Christians may have neighborhood Bible studies which are loaded with \_\_\_\_\_, lack of Bible knowledge, false connections of facts, and ignorance. We must learn to discipline ourselves to study the Bible \_\_\_\_\_, and this process begins with the \_\_\_\_\_.

INSPIRATIONS

2 Corinthians 3:6 says, "**The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life**."

John 6:63 says, "**It is the Spirit who gives life**."

"**All Scripture is God-breathed**" or "**God-inspired**." (2 Timothy 3:16)

What is inspiration? How should this affect us?

What is a common misunderstanding regarding inspiration? Give an example.

TRUTH

To come to the truth requires that we first have a firm grasp of the \_\_\_\_\_ and have much \_\_\_\_\_ in our study of the Word. Without the foundation of the facts, there can be no sustained or effective \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. Therefore, we must be able to assemble and disassemble the Bible as the Word of God by using our \_\_\_\_\_ mind (Romans 12:1-2) when handling the Word. Then in our prayer, in our meditation, in our enjoyment of the Bible we get so \_\_\_\_\_ because we find the God’s living and operative Word \_\_\_\_\_ and as members of the Body of Christ. We find that we \_\_\_\_\_ what we have enjoyed with someone else. If we can "study" the Bible and walk away without any feeling or without something \_\_\_\_\_ up within us (John 4:14), then we did not study properly. Improper study causes the Bible to be a book of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than inspiration, truth, and revelation.

**The Word Being Living and Operative**

Hebrews 4:12, "**The Word of God is living and operative**..." When does the Bible as God’s Word becomes operative to us? And how does this happen?

Contrast truth from doctrine:

Define truth using the following passage of scripture: Pontius Pilate asked this question of Jesus just before sentencing Him to the cruel death of crucifixion. John 18:36-38a, "**Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My attendants would be struggling so that I would not be delivered to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not from here. 37 Pilate said therefore to Him, so then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice. 38 Pilate said to Him, What is truth?"** This passage defines truth practically.

REVELATION

The "peak" of the mountain in studying the Bible is revelation. Revelation of God's Word \_\_\_\_\_ us. Revelation of God's Word \_\_\_\_\_ us. When we "see" something divine it completely \_\_\_\_\_. Revelation is unmistakable and irreversible! All believers have some revelation; otherwise, they could not be regenerated, born-again. However, many Christians remain \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14) because they do not know how to properly handle the Bible as the Word of God in order to gain the facts, inspirations, truths and most importantly, revelations.

The apostle Paul is a vivid example of a man who lived according to revelation. In Galatians 1:11-12, Paul wrote, "**For I make known to you, brothers, concerning the gospel announced by me, that it is not according to man. 12 For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation by Jesus Christ**." Revelation is by \_\_\_\_\_. Wow! How we love to follow men and their philosophy or teaching. Yet, Biblical revelation is absolutely a matter issuing from, in, and by Jesus Christ. The apostle John in his revelation wrote, "**The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place**." (Rev. 1:1) When the Spirit operates, we call the entire Bible the divine revelation of God. Or we can also say that the Bible is the complete divine \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ to man.

How do we gain divine revelation?

Show how the apostle Paul properly studied scripture according to the four basic aspects.

**Revelation is Progressive**

Give two examples:

**Revelation Controls Us**

Define that statement.

**A Final Exhortation**

**Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at every time in the Spirit with all kinds of prayers and requests.** Ephesians 6:18-19

We should do a self-evaluation in the Lord’s presence to assess how much God’s Word effects our lives. Do we study the Bible and not change? Do we attend Christian gatherings and remain the same? The Lord told us that you will know a tree by its fruit. Our lives cannot remain the same if we touch God’s word. If so, then we do not handle the Bible as God’s Word, but a book of letters. **Letters kills, but the Spirit gives life** (2 Corinthians 3:6). **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life** (John 6:63). There is no apathy or lukewarmness in God’s eternal life that flows when we touch His Word.

We must endeavor to contact the Bible firstly for facts, then inspirations, then truth (reality), and finally revelations. Genuine believers abide in the truth that the Lord has given them to the point that they treasure it by musing, pondering, and praying over it constantly and continually. This gives the Lord the ground to grant us deeper revelation that will control us and make us useful to Him for His interest on the earth!

This article is written based on the book: "*How to Study the Bible*" by Watchman Nee.