

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

***"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin
against thee."***

Psalms 119:11

Bible Institute Series



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INTRODUCTION

The Bible is the most important book ever written and compiled. If nothing else, it is the greatest piece of human literature ever produced. It is the revelation of God to man. What could be more profound, yet more beautifully simple, than the eternal God stooping to use human language to reveal Himself and His sovereign plan for mankind by way of a written record.

The Bible was written and compiled over a period of about 1600 years involving some forty authors and writers. Our English King James Version contains 66 books, 1189 chapters, 41,173 verses, and 774,746 words. The longest chapter is Psalms 119; the shortest chapter is Psalms 117. Esther 8:9 is the longest verse; John 11:35 is the shortest. There is no word or more than six syllables in the Bible. Amazingly diverse, yet astoundingly unified are its contents showing to us that there is really only one Author of the Bible. II Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Scriptures were given by “*inspiration of God*” i.e., they are God-breathed and thus come directly from God Himself. The Bible is, indeed, a divine book, yet intended for human needs.

Like any other book, the Bible is to be read, studied, and understood according to the laws of language. God chose to have His Word recorded in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek that were common to men of that day and time. This was so that every man from the least to the greatest could understand its truths. This study is built squarely upon that fact.

The Lord intended for everyone to hear and understand His Word that our lives might be enriched and prepared for eternity (Deut. 29:29). The principles to be covered in this course are intended to provide the basic tools, methods, and understandings to engage the reader in a lifetime of spiritually profitable Bible study.

There are as many different approaches to Bible study as many as there are books on the subject. It would be too time consuming to merely examine several of those and offer a choice as to which one fits the individual. Because this is an introductory study on the subject of Biblical interpretation, this study will address the basics of interpretation. If one can gain the perspective of searching for the author’s intended meaning in the text and have the tools to use to aid in the search then the rest is a matter of discipline and hard work.

The study of God’s Word is the key to spirituality. A person cannot be saved apart from hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:15; neither can he grow (I Pet. 2:2) or become spiritually mature without delving into deeper truths of the Scriptures (Heb. 5:12-14). Our Lord commanded us to “*Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they which testify of Me*” (Jn. 5:39). Simply, one cannot know God apart from his understanding of the Scriptures. The greatness of our Sovereign God is revealed in the pages of His Word.

May this study initiate an insatiable hunger and thirst for the Word of God in the lives of all who read it.

Pastor Mojo

THE BIBLE

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here, Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Priscilla Howe

BASICS

DEFINITIONS USED IN BIBLE STUDY

It is important and essential in every field of study and endeavor to know the language and concepts that are used in the field. A doctor must learn to identify and use properly literally hundreds of words and terms for his practice. A scientist must do the same. The plumber, the electrician, and the carpenter must know what tools and methods to use or they cannot do their work well. Imagine the mess one would make if plumber's tools were used to work on a highly sensitive computer or a doctor used carpenter's tools in the operating room. The same principle applies to Bible study.

Although everyone does not have the same job skills, everyone can study the Bible and should do so, but not according to his own whims using the wrong "tools." In fact, that is the very reason that a myriad of doctrines and teachings exist today in the church. People have used the wrong "tools" along with their own misunderstandings and literally abused the Word of God.

The following list-of-terms are some of those that are peculiar to the field of Bible study. Use them properly and they will be a great blessing. Abuse them and they will be a curse of confusion to those doing the study and others they may influence.

- ***Hermeneutics***

Broadly speaking, this is the science of interpretation. As it applies to interpreting the Scriptures, it is the general and special principles and rules useful to accurately interpreting the text and finding the original intention of the author.

- ***Exegesis***

This word is the transliteration of a Greek word literally meaning "to lead out." It was used to explain something clearly (cf. Lk. 24:27, 35; Jn. 1:18). It came to be the word used that describes the practice and procedures for discovering the author's intended meaning of a Biblical text.

Hermeneutics is the theory to interpretation; *Exegesis* is the practice of it. As in music, a good musician (and especially an accomplished one) must know both theory and practice to perform well. So it is with Bible study.

- ***Historical-Grammatical Interpretation***

This is a two part term. Historical relates to the times and circumstances of the writing. Grammatical relates to understanding words, terms, phrases, sentences, clauses in the plain, ordinary literal sense. Therefore, this is determining the meaning of the text by using the laws of grammar and the facts of history.

- ***Eisegesis***

Literally this means “looking into.” It is the opposite of exegesis in that it makes the text mean what the reader wants it to mean rather than what the author intended it to mean. It is taking a Biblical text and interpreting it according to one’s own whims and definitions and disregarding the proper ones.

- ***Inerrancy***

Literally, the word means “without error.” It applies to the Bible as meaning that the Scriptures in their original autographs are without any error in word or concept in all that the Bible affirms.

The doctrine of inerrancy, also, means that the Bible is complete. There is no new revelation from God that has come to the church since the close of the book of Revelation and none is to be expected (Heb. 1:1, 2). Therefore, the Bible is the inerrant and complete Word of God.

- ***Inspiration***

The special act of God through the Holy Spirit that enabled the writers of the Scriptures to record every word without error or omission and at the same time revealed the writer’s own personality and style of writing in the text. The act of inspiration applies only to the original autographs, but inspiration is preserved in accurate copies of the originals and in accurate translations (II Pet. 1:20, 21; II Tim. 3:16).

- ***Doctrine***

Literally, this means “teaching.” In Bible study, a doctrine is an accurately stated truth that is based on accurate interpretation of the Scriptures. There is a clear warning in Mt. 15:9 about false doctrines based on the commandments of men.

- ***Theology***

There is a narrow and broad usage of the term. It is derived from two Greek words: *Theos* – meaning God and *Logos* – meaning Word or Doctrine. Narrowly, it means the doctrine of God. Broadly, it applies to all the doctrines the Bible teaches.

- ***Inductive Reasoning***

This is the process of investigation that begins with small details and gathers enough of such to form a general statement. Out of many related facts comes a conclusion.

- ***Deductive Reasoning***

This is the process of investigation that begins with a conclusion and then searches for the details to prove it. It proceeds from the general to the detailed.

THE DISCIPLINE OF BIBLE STUDY

Wikipedia says *“Discipline is the suppression of base desires, and is usually understood to be synonymous with restraint and self-control. Self-discipline is to some extent a substitute for motivation [citation needed]. Discipline is when one uses reason to determine the best course of action that opposes one's desires, which is the opposite of fun. Virtuous behavior can be described as when one's values are aligned with one's aims: to do what one knows is best and to do it gladly. Continent behavior, on the other hand, is when one does what one knows is best, but must do it by opposing one's motivations.”* In regards to Biblical study, discipline requires both the process of studying and the essentials of Bible study.

The Process of Studying

A process is something that is done on a scheduled, regular and planned basis that is not relegated to a second place or optional place in one's life. It is simply DONE . . . no reservations, no excuses, no exceptions. To STUDY is to buy out the time and dedicate self to the application and the task of study which is to become engrossed in a process of learning, practice, enlightenment - education of one's self.

Therefore . . . the process of study can be derived from the above as buying out a dedicated scheduled and un-interrupted time to apply one's self to the task of learning. Without it, one does not grow and becomes self-limiting in life. One will only go as far in life as their STUDY PROCESS (learning/education) will take them. How far someone wishes to go is determined by the study process. A good process for Biblical study will involve three elements:

1. Accumulation of Facts – collecting material and information.
2. Assimilation of Facts – correlating material and information
3. Application of Facts – considering the relevance of the material and information.

The Essentials of Bible Study

The key ingredients, the major contributing elements of solid, rooted Biblical study will require:

1. The Aptitude for Biblical Study – Illumination. The perception of Bible study is not about how smart one is (Jn. 16:13; I Cor. 1:21; I Jn. 2:27).
2. The Attitude of Bible Study – Being Teachable.
 - a. It takes recognition of the Bible's Authority (I Tim. 4:13; II Tim. 3:16, 17).
 - b. It requires a need for Scriptural direction in life (Psa. 19:105).
 - c. It provides an application of truth for every age and situation (Psa. 100:5).
3. The Atmosphere for Bible Study.
 - a. Is when God's Word is respected and researched.
 - b. Is where careful reflection and meditation are possible (Psa. 119:15).
 - c. Is where legitimate practice of Biblical truth is encouraged and exemplified.
4. The Approach in Bible Study – literal and natural interpretation
5. The Application of Bible Study – Spiritual birth (I Cor. 5:10).

The Resource Materials Used for Bible Study

Resource Materials are available to help each person “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” (II Tim. 2:15). The reference materials listed below are in no way exhaustive and reflect a start on study material. As Preacher Greg has stated many times, find the Bible that helps you understand. None of these study materials listed are meant to be a replacement for the Bible itself, simply tools to help you increase in knowledge.

I. GENERAL BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

a. A Good Study Bible (based on what I have in my Library)

1. King James Version (KJV) (Recommend the *Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, *Dake's* or *Nelson Study Bible*)
2. The New American Standard Bible (NASB)
3. The Amplified Bible

b. An Exhaustive Concordance (Recommend *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*)

c. A Bible Dictionary or Bible Encyclopedia

1. Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, 2 Vols. (Baker)
2. The Complete Book of When and Where in the Bible (Tyndale)
3. Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary
4. The Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Tyndale)
5. Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Nelson)
6. Tyndale Bible Dictionary (Tyndale)
7. The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible, 5 vols. (Zondervan)

d. A Topical Bible (Recommend Nave's Topical Bible)

e. A Bible Handbook

1. Halley's Bible Handbook
2. Holman Bible Handbook
3. The New Unger's Bible Handbook

f. A Set of Word Studies

g. Commentaries (Individual Books or sets of Commentaries)

h. Introductions to the Bible

1. An Introduction to the New Testament – D. Edmond Hiebert
2. Introduction to the New Testament – H.C. Theissen
3. Old Testament Introduction – Gleason Archer
4. An Historical Survey of the Old Testament – Eugene Merrill
5. An Introduction to the Old Testament – Ed Young
6. Introductory Guide to the Old Testament – Unger

i. Recommended Study Tools

1. *Willmington's Guide to the Bible* by Harold Willmington (excellent resource)
2. *Explore the Book* by J. Sidlow Baxter

THE “GOAL” OF BIBLE STUDY

EXPLANATION

The diagram on the following page helps to visualize what is involved in the study of the Scriptures. It shows the steps that lead to developing life principles from an accurate interpretation of the Bible. This is what makes God’s Word relevant in each culture and generation.

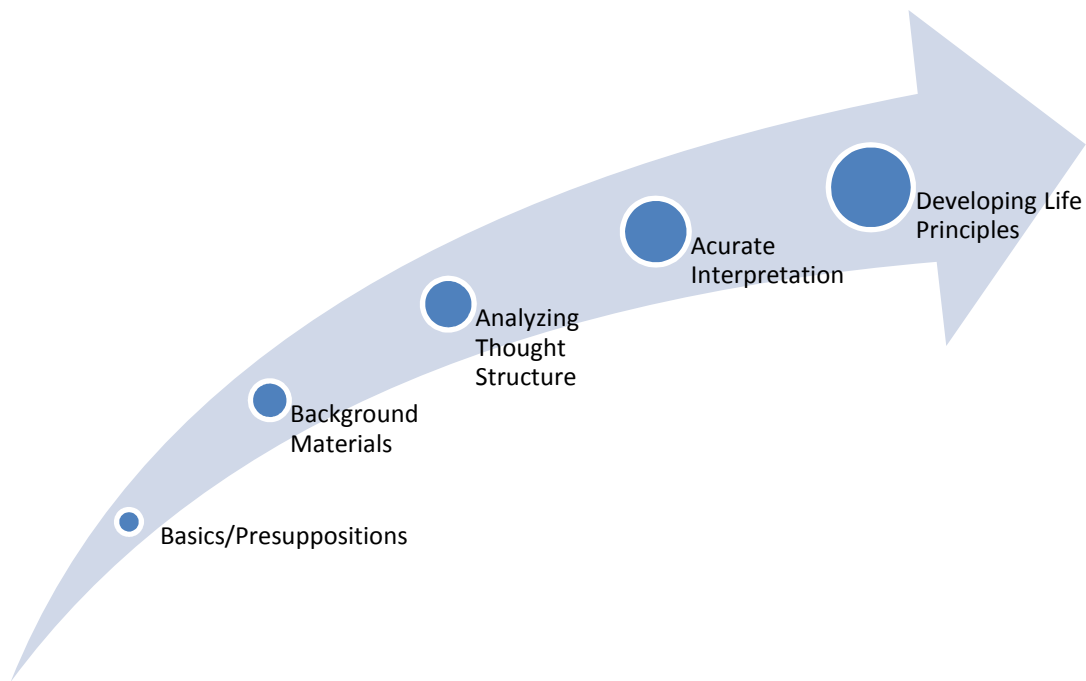
Each step involved in the process can be as intricate and detailed as desired. For example, one may spend a great deal of time researching the background materials related to the text he is studying in order to gain a thorough knowledge of it. And for that matter, this is exactly what is done in scholarly work. A person does extensive research in certain areas to gain an expertise on the subject.

On the other hand, each step can be fairly simple and general depending on the desire of the student. One may merely look up the listed information given in a resource book and take it for granted that the information that is given is accurate. He can properly interpret the passage he is studying but his scope of understanding will be limited. Of course, each person is encouraged to study as thoroughly as his time will allow.

It must be assumed that when a person has thoroughly examined a passage even to the point of developing life principles from it, he will be obedient to what he learns. Knowledge brings accountability. God gave us His Word to be understood and lived in loving obedience to His will.

If these steps that constitute this course of study are consistently used, they will yield an absolute wealth of Bible truth for the serious student of God’s Word. The more proficient one becomes in the process, the more he will discover of God’s eternal truth.

DIAGRAM



GOAL

1. **To Gain Spiritual Food** – *“As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2).*
2. **To Gain Spiritual Cleansing** – *“Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word” (Ephesians 5:25,26).*
3. **To Gain Spiritual Wisdom** – *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them and that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:14, 15).*
4. **To Gain Spiritual Guidance** – *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105).*
5. **To Increase Faith** – *“So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).*
6. **To Be Transformed into His Image** – *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18): “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7).*
NOTE: The closer to the Light we are the more like the Light we become!
7. **To Gain Knowledge of God** – *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (II Corinthians 4:6).*
8. **To Impart the Blessings of the Word** – *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” (I Peter 3:15).*

To accurately understand and convey the message, one must know both the thought and the Scripture!

PROCEDURES FOR BIBLE STUDY

Procedures in the work place are given as a means of supporting specific policy directives. Procedures address who, what, when, where, how and why questions. Following certain procedures in Biblical study you assist the practitioner in accurately interpreting the text. These procedures fall into three main categories, an informational approach, a devotional approach and an analytical approach.

AN INFORMATIONAL APPROACH

Like a computer, the human mind is a processor of information. Just as a computer follows a program to produce an output, so does the brain. It is possible and desirable to study the internal mental / mediational processes that lie between the stimuli (in our environment) and the response one makes after processing this information. The information processing approach is based on a number of assumptions, including: (1) information made available by the environment is processed by a series of processing systems (e.g. attention, perception, short-term memory); (2) these processing systems transform or alter the information in systematic ways; (3) the aim of research is to specify the processes and structures that underlie cognitive performance; (4) information processing in humans resembles that in computers. This approach will answer the following questions:

1. What is the main theme? (The theme must encompass the whole passage)
2. What is a good outline?
3. What is the background?
4. Where are the geographical places mentioned? (Use a good Bible Atlas)
5. Who are the people mentioned? (gather information about those involved in the passage)
6. What do the sentences of the text mean? (use several study resources)
7. What do the words mean? (Use a Young's or Strong's Concordance, or good Hebrew Greek translators)
8. What doctrines are taught?
9. What parallels can be found? (Use a good reference Bible or a harmony of the Gospels)
10. What types appear in the text?
11. What principles can be formulated from the text?
12. How does the context influence the passage?
13. What is the purpose of the passage?

A DEVOTIONAL APPROACH

For the Christian, devotional Bible study is not an option. In a very real sense, every kind of Bible study must, on some level, be devotional. The ultimate goal is to know God better through His Word. That's why devotional Bible study is extremely important. This approach will answer the following questions:

1. What did the text mean then?
2. What does the text mean now?
3. What does it mean to me?

AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH

This approach can be used on a verse, a chapter or a complete book of the Bible. Here we will consider its application to the study of a book of the Bible, since this should be seen as the normal scope of consecutive Bible study and as a reminder that there are real dangers in taking a verse or even a chapter out of its context. (Although it is recognized that different books of the Bible may need somewhat different methods, lack of space forbids more than a generalized treatment.) The first stage is to look at the book as a whole. It should be read through a number of times, preferably in various versions. The following questions should be kept in mind and rough notes made (including the appropriate reference) as answers to them are discovered during reading. (Each question could well be placed at the top of a piece of paper.)

1. What type (genre) of literature is this? (How does it compare with other books of the Bible?)
2. What can I discover about the author and his purposes in writing?
3. What can I discover about the identity, situation and needs of the addressees?
4. What are the main themes of the book?

Then an attempt should be made to produce an outline or analysis of the structure of the book, giving an overall title (according to its apparent theme) and dividing it into sections and subsections each with a heading or description (according to its contents).

At this point a Bible dictionary, an Introduction (e.g. those by Harrison and Guthrie) or the introductory section of the appropriate commentary could well be consulted to confirm, correct or supplement the personal discoveries and conclusions. A fuller, revised and more permanent set of notes could now be made.

The second stage involves working through the biblical text one paragraph at a time (according to the divisions in your Bible or your own analysis), keeping in mind the literary genre, the overall structure, the purpose, and the flow of the narrative or argument. First, an attempt should be made to paraphrase (in writing) the contents or argument of the paragraph and to relate its function to the overall purpose of the book. Then, the paragraph should be worked through sentence by sentence and even phrase by phrase. (Verses will not always be the most sensible units of study.) Two main questions face the Bible student at this point: What does it say? What does it mean?

PRESUPPOSITIONS

According to Wikipedia, presuppositions are an implicit assumption about the world or background belief relating to an utterance whose truth is taken for granted in discourse. Examples of presuppositions include:

- Jane no longer writes fiction. Presupposition: Jane once wrote fiction.
- Have you stopped eating meat? Presupposition: you had once eaten meat.
- Have you talked to Hans? Presupposition: Hans exists.

A presupposition must be mutually known or assumed by the speaker and addressee for the utterance to be considered appropriate in context. It will generally remain a necessary assumption whether the utterance is placed in the form of an assertion, denial, or question, and can be associated with a specific lexical item or grammatical feature (presupposition trigger) in the utterance. In Biblical study, the presuppositions triggers are formed using either the communication process or the principle of literal interpretation.

THE COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The communication process addresses how the Word of God has been communicated from God to man. It involves the original Revelation and Inspiration, transmission, translation, interpretation and application of the Scriptures.

- **Revelation and Inspiration:** Revelation means “revealing that which was not previously known,” and inspiration means “God provided the means by which His revelation actually became recorded.”
- **Transmission:** An accurate copying of the original document.
- **Translation:** A reflection into the modern languages to gain the sense and essence of the original languages. For example: LXX = Septuagint – The Greek translation of the Old Testament Hebrew.
- **Interpretation:** Accurately discovering the literal meaning intended by the author.
- **Application:** Making the truths of the Scripture the authoritative guide for one’s life.

THE PRINCIPLE OF LITERAL INTERPRETATION

One of the most critical steps in understanding the Scripture is the *principle of literal interpretation*. The *principle of literal interpretation* is defined as “the idea that every statement of Scripture has only one sense.” There are two ways to communicate a literal truth:

1. **Plain-literal statements:** An explicit assertion of fact.
2. **Figurative-literal statements:** A statement of specific intention.

There are several rules that will assist the reader in determining the difference in Scripture:

1. Always assume it is the plain-literal statement;
2. If what you are reading does not fit into the plain-literal statement then look for the figurative-literal statement;
3. If using the figurative-literal statement, the following rules must be followed:
 - a. Context – what is the setting of the actual Passage;
 - b. Cultural background – what did it mean to them then;
 - c. What was the specific intention of the writer;
 - d. For a figurative-literal statement, one must allow for differing opinions.

There is a danger of “spiritualizing” the text, which simply means “giving a figurative-literal meaning to a plain-literal meaning. This is commonly called “taking the Scriptures out of context.”

BACKGROUND STUDIES

In order to ensure that Scripture is taken in proper context and intent of the author, a thorough background study must be completed. An informative background study will enable one to answer the “who, what, when, where, how, and why” questions. Understanding the introductory information relating to Scripture and the elements of a background study will enable the student of Scripture to “rightly divide the Word of Truth.”

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

There are 4 key elements that must be determined in this process:

1. **Authorship:** The study of authorship will reveal the various styles of the writer. Understanding the writer’s style will also assist in helping one to understand the intent of the writer. Ron Rhodes, in his study ‘Rightly Interpreting the Scriptures,’ stated the authors meaning is the only true meaning. Meaning is determined by the author; it is discovered by the reader.
2. **Date and Place of the Writing:** In progressive revelation, God lays out a pattern. To accomplish this:
 - a. Look for internal dates;
 - b. Look for circumstances, people, and surroundings.These will help chart the development of progressive revelation, as well as show the Divine nature of prophetic revelation.
3. **Those addressed in the writing:** For example, Who was Mark writing to? Who was Matthew writing to? Who was Luke writing to?
4. **Events leading up to the writing (the life situation):** Determine the specific problems addressed at the time of the writing. Do not simply take a verse and interpret it; find out the situation of the writing, as they set the stage for the text. By doing so, one will provide a framework for interpretation and application.

THE ELEMENTS OF BACKGROUND STUDY

Once the introductory information has been gathered pertaining to the text, the next step in the study process is to gather the elements of the background study. These elements are:

1. **Chronology** – One should ask “when did this happen,” not just a date. This helps to see God’s movement through time by the development of the human race. It also helps to see the development of revelation itself.
2. **Geography** - Be familiar with the location of nations, cities and various places mentioned (such as Mesopotamia or Babylon). Also know the “lay of the land,” the type of terrain. Also be familiar with the type of climate. A good Bible Atlas (such as Baker’s Bible Atlas) will be a great aide to have.
3. **Customs and Culture** – know the way people are greeted, how they shake hands, etc. It is also good to know the various vocations (jobs) they held. If they were a shepherd for instance, be familiar with what a shepherd does.

4. **Prevailing conditions** – know where it was written (such as Paul’s Prison Epistles). Be familiar with the problems that are addressed. Also know what the influences and needs were at the time of the writing.
5. **Related Passages** – Such as the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) or interpretive comparisons.
6. **Biographical Details** - research all the verses about that person in order to study his life and characteristics. Make notes on his attitudes, strengths, weaknesses. This will also assist with identifying the time period.
7. **Political Influences** – Identify who were the rulers, kings and governors. Also identify what the political concerns of the day were.

ANALYZING THOUGHT STRUCTURE

Analyzing thought structure involves comparing and contrasting how an author utilizes information from historical events when writing. Learning how to analyze an author’s craft is challenging. Authors, depending on their purpose for writing, use varying structures and literary devices to meet their writing goals. Analyzing thought structure, in relation to Biblical study, involves rules of grammar, figures of speech, language styles, progression of Revelation in Scriptures and outlining the Scriptures.

RULES OF GRAMMAR

Language is the “rule of grammar.” It is important to understand what has been communicated, as well as to effectively communicate what has been learned to others. II Timothy 2:2 says, *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

Bible lexicons provide definitions and meaning of Biblical words found in the original New Testament Greek and Old Testament Hebrew languages of the Holy Bible. This study resource helps in understanding the origins and root meaning of the ancient language. Additional, lexicons give the context and cultural meaning intended by the authors. Using the online King James Version or New American Standard lexicon with Strong’s Concordance numbers provides a detailed understanding of the Hebrew and Greek language used in the Bible.

The New Testament Greek lexicon based on Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary plus others; this is keyed to the large Kittel and the "Theological Dictionary of the New Testament." Also included are pronunciations of each word with alternate pronunciations if available

The Old Testament Hebrew lexicon is Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Lexicon; this is keyed to the "Theological Word Book of the Old Testament." Also included are pronunciations of each word with alternate pronunciations if available.

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Figures of speech is a conscious, deliberate, use of a grammatical tool to depart from the normal (literal) use of words for a special purpose. There are nine (9) various figures of speech in the Scriptures:

1. **Simile:** A stated comparison using “like” or “as.” “*He shall be like a tree . . .*” (Psalms 1:3); “*. . . the Spirit of God descending like a dove*” (Matthew 3:16).
2. **Metaphor:** An implied comparison in which one thing is said to be another. “*The Lord is my rock and my fortress*” (Psalms 18:2); “*Ye are the salt of the earth*” (Matthew 5:13).
3. **Hyperbole:** A conscious, deliberate exaggeration for effect or emphasis. “*All night I make my bed to swim*” (Psalms 6:6); “*Millstone hanged about his neck*” (Matthew 18:6).
4. **Personification:** Portrays a thing or an idea as a person. “*The trees of the field shall clap their hand*” (Isaiah 55:12); “*The morrow shall take thought for the things of itself*” (Matthew 6:34).
5. **Irony:** Conveys disapproval under the cover of apparent approval. “*Go and prosper*” (I Kings 22:15); “*Ye have reigned as kings without us*” (I Corinthians 4:8).
6. **Apostrophe:** Addressing inanimate things as a person. “*What aileth thee, o thou sea*” (Psalms 114:5); “*Oh death, where is thy sting*” (I Corinthians 15:55).
7. **Anthropomorphism:** Attributing human or bodily characteristics to God. “*The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous*” (Psalms 34:15); “*No man is able to pluck thee out of my father’s hand*” (John 10:29).
8. **Euphemism:** Substituting less offensive words for more accurate ones. “*Thou shalt be buried at a good old age*” (Genesis 15:15); “*When he said this, he fell asleep*” (Acts 7:60).
9. **Metonymy:** Using one word for another word because it suggests the other. “*For the land committeth great whoredom*” (Hosea 1:2); “*They have Moses and the prophets*” (Luke 16:29).

LANGUAGE STYLES

In any language, different styles of expression are appropriate in different situations. We can go from the formal to the informal, the written to the spoken, from technical language (or jargon) to slang. Written and spoken versions of a language use different styles, different registers. In the study of Scriptures, language styles typically have a narrative, are didactic, often in the form of wisdom literature and/or Apocalyptic literature.

- **Narrative**

This is the recording of events arranged according to the author’s thematic choice. For example, Matthew’s Gospel recorded events centered around the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ; Joh’s Gospel conveys the deity of Christ; the book of Proverbs centers on the theme of instructing teens about life.

- **Didactic**

By definition *didactic* is the art or science of teaching a moral lesson. In regards to Spiritual truth, it is relative in terms of commands and principles. This is illustrated by the Law of the Old Testament or the Epistles of the New Testament.

- **Wisdom Literature**

The phrasing of truth in poetic style, wisdom statements, or analogies; it conveys the wisdom for life. Wisdom Literature is found in Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Judges Chapter 5, in the Songs of Miriam and the Songs of Moses. Wisdom Literature is also found in the New Testament (Romans 11:33-36; I Timothy 1:15; II Timothy 2:11-13).

- **Apocalyptic Literature**

Figurative language used to predict disaster and doom. This is illustrated often in books like Joel and Revelation.

PROGRESSION OF REVELATION IN SCRIPTURE

Progressive revelation in Christianity is the concept that the sections of the Bible that were written later contain a fuller revelation of God compared to the earlier sections. For instance, the theologian Charles Hodge wrote, "The progressive character of divine revelation is recognized in relation to all the great doctrines of the Bible... What at first is only obscurely intimated is gradually unfolded in subsequent parts of the sacred volume, until the truth is revealed in its fulness." [1]

The ultimate revelation of God is understood to be found in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels. For example, the New Testament is to be used to better understand and interpret the Old Testament. Likewise, all sections of the Bible are believed accurate in conservative Christian theology.

The **Law of First Mention** is the first time a subject is introduced is often the key to understanding the later development of the doctrine. Following the *First Mention*, some passages in Scriptures will fully discuss and explain the doctrine. Normally, the last reference to a subject often parallels the *First Mention*. Progressive Revelation IS NOT a liberal ideal of evolutionary development of religion and is not a continuing presentation of Revelation.

OUTLINING THE SCRIPTURES

This is a method of organizing researched material into its main and supporting ideas using a definite framework for recording and communicating. Outlining allows one to see the thought structure used by the author by using prescribed patterns that correspond to the thought structure. The next step would then be to record the research using a frame to catalogue it. There are basically three types of outlines used:

TOPICAL OUTLINE

The Topical Outline sees the overall themes of the material and arranges them into their respective headings. This shows how the material was arranged around thought presentations. This is the simplest and weakest kind of outline. This is the first step in the study method.

ANALYTICAL OUTLINE

The Analytical Outline takes the work of the Topical Outline in arrangement and states the material in the words used by the author. NO INTERPRETATION IS DONE HERE. This breaks down the text into paragraphs and supporting statements according to the author's reasoning. This method uses the words/meanings of the author, but is not a listing of Scriptural quotes.

EXPOSITORY OUTLINE

The Expository Outline takes the work of the previous outlines and interprets the author's statements into contemporary terms or universal truths relevant to the needs of the interpreter.

Every good outline will have 3 main parts:

1. Introduction (in paragraph form)
2. Main Body
3. Conclusion (In paragraph form)

Material is catalogued using a prescribed pattern and a consistent set of symbols. Below is a sample outline format:

INTRODUCTION: (In paragraph form)

- I. **(Roman Numeral corresponds to main thought)**
 - A. (Capitol letters designate a key supporting thought(s) in relations to main thought)
 - B. (Must be at least 2 key points or else do not divide)
 1. (designates sub-points to key supporting thoughts)
 - a. Supporting sub-points to sub-points

CONCLUSION: (In paragraph form)

ACCURATELY INTERPRETING THE TEXT

John 6:63 says, *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."* Jesus said His words lead to eternal life. But for us to receive eternal life through His words, they must be taken as He intended them to be taken. There are three preparatory steps that are of absolute necessity for one to accurately interpret the Scriptures:

1. ***Deliverance by Regeneration – An Essential Experience:*** The ability to grasp Spiritual truth requires Spiritual birth. *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Corinthians 2:14). Human beings cannot understand God's Word apart from God's divine enablement (Ephesians 4:18). Illumination comes to the 'minds' of God's people - not to some non-rational faculty like our 'emotions' or our 'feelings.'
2. ***Dependence on the Holy Spirit – An Essential Aid:*** The Holy Spirit guides the believer to perceive the Truth. Scripture tells us that we are to rely on the Holy Spirit's illumination to gain insights into the meaning and application of Scripture (John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11). It is the Holy Spirit's work to throw light upon the Word of God so that the believer can assent to the meaning intended and act on it. The Holy Spirit, as the *"Spirit of truth"* (John 16:13), guides us so that *"we may understand what God has freely given us"* (1 Corinthians 2:12). This is quite logical: full comprehension of the Word of God is impossible without prayerful dependence on the Spirit of God, for He who inspired the Word (2 Peter 1:21) is also its supreme interpreter.
3. ***Due Diligence in Study – An Essential Effort:*** No amount of experience can replace hard work. God created language for a purpose. The Bible as a body of literature exists because human beings need to know certain spiritual truths to which they cannot attain by themselves. Paul, understanding this, admonished young Timothy to follow his example: *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). It is through the study of God's Word that we bridge the gap between our minds and the minds of the biblical writers.

TEN RULES TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

God sovereignly chose to use human language as a medium of revelational communication. If the primary purpose of God's originating of language was to make it possible for Him to communicate with human beings, as well as to enable human beings to communicate with each another, then it must follow that He would generally use language and expect man to use it in its literal, normal, and plain sense. This view of language is a prerequisite to understanding not only God's spoken word but His written Word (Scripture) as well. These Rules to Biblical Interpretation will enable the reader to *"rightly divide the Word of Truth:"*

1. **The Rule of Definition:** The defining of words, terms, phrases as the author intended. This is the building block of all language interpretation. The highest goal is to discover what the author meant.
2. **The Rule of Usage:** How the author uses his terms initially. Terms may be given different meanings depending entirely on how the author chooses to use them.
3. **The Rule of Context:** The ability to limit one's interpretation to the author's perspective on the subject being discussed.
4. **The Rule of Historical Background:** Understanding the important historical facts present in the author's mind that influenced the context of the writing. This is often referred to as 'the life situation of the passage in history.'
5. **The Rule of Logic:** Understanding the logical progression of thought by the author including his transitions to the development of thoughts and conclusions.
6. **The Rule of Precedent:** Understanding a word, term, phrase or concept by the author's first mention of it in his writing and seeing its subsequent development. A good illustration of this is found in Hebrews 2:9 and 6:4, 5 where the word 'taste' actually means 'full consumption.'
7. **The Rule of Unity:** The separate parts of the author's writings do not contradict one another, nor the whole intent of the writing.
8. **The Rule of Inference:** The literal truth of a text implies reasonable facts or conclusions that may not be stated, but, are nevertheless implied in the text.
9. **The Rule of Singularity:** Understanding that a Scripture text has only one true interpretation, but may have many applications to the life of the believers.
10. **The Rule of Simplicity and Clarity:** An interpretation should not be more complicated than is necessary to explain the passage.

USING CROSS REFERENCES

One of the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation is that "Scripture is its own best interpreter." Luther expressed this principle with the words, *Scriptura sui ipsius interpres* ("Scripture is its own expositor"), and it was summed up by the authors of the Westminster Confession thus: "The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture ... it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly." Cross-reference allows the reader to "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor 2:13). When used diligently and with intelligence, cross-referencing will make much commentary unnecessary, as the Bible is virtually self-interpreting.

Such cross-references will go far to explain nearly everything in the Bible chiefly because, as Ray Van Leeuwen puts it, "The language, imagery, narratives and poetry of Scripture are pervasively cross-referential." The verbal "cross-references" are there in the very language of Scripture, and these were

apparent to diligent students long before anyone had the idea of dividing the text into numbered verses and filling the margins with references. Many times students have grasped the correct interpretation of a difficult expression by remembering a parallel usage somewhere else in Scripture, or have hit upon the right interpretation of a passage by comparing it with another passage.

1. **Verbal Cross-References:** Verbal cross-reference is the concept of finding the same word(s) used in other texts of the Scriptures. When the same author uses the same word, his meaning is usually consistent and even clarified. When different authors use the same word, their meanings may be different. English translations do not always translate the same original word consistently (i.e. with the same sense).
2. **Parallel Cross-References:** The concept of parallel cross-reference is the same subject or theme is referenced when the same basic words are used. This concept helps one to gain a complete picture of the text. However, one may have to address variance in the text.
3. **Conceptual Cross-Reference:** The conceptual cross-reference is where the concept or principle is addressed, but not necessarily using the same words. This is the best type of reference for interpretation and is truly where the Bible interprets itself. (compare Genesis 12:1-3 with Romans 4 and Galatians 3:6-16 or compare Isaiah 6 to Revelation 4.

DECIDING BETWEEN CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS

There are two general rules that apply when deciding between conflicting interpretations. Rule one (1) is to choose the interpretation that accounts for the most details. Rule two (2) is to choose the interpretation that agrees with the widest range of truth. When choosing books for help consider the following:

- The Spiritual perception (ensure that the author is a believer);
- Accuracy of the book;
- Comprehensiveness of the book;
- Specific content of the book;
- Spiritual fervor with which the book was written;
- Practicality of the book;
- Readability of the book;
- Currency of the information contained in the book.

There are also warnings that need to be adhered to when deciding between conflicting interpretations:

- Watch for heresy;
- Look for private interpretations;
- Beware of riding a hobby horse;
- Be mindful of logical fallacies.

PRINCIPLIZATION: DEVELOPING LIFE PRINCIPLES

Once, while Jesus was speaking a message about the essential nature of the kingdom of God, he concluded with these cryptic words: *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear”* (Mark 4:9). He said essentially the same thing as well to his churches in Revelation 2-3. He also complained that Israel had turned a deaf ear to his claims and ministry (Matthew 13:15). If true believers are to experience the

“fullness of joy” (Psalms 16:11) and the presence and power of God, they must be receptive to His Word. In order to develop life principles through the Scriptures, one must understand the steps to principlization, commands and principles established in the Christian life, the relationship between the conscience and the Word of God, as well as understanding of how the Christian life is in relation to a secular society.

THE STEPS TO PRINCIPLIZATION

The first step to principlization is to gain the proper interpretation of the text. This presupposes one’s understanding of finding the author’s intent in the text by using the *rules of interpretation*. This presupposes that one follows the accurate procedures learned in Biblical interpretation. Secondly, settle only for theological accuracy and harmony. The Church has clearly established the theological basis of Biblical teaching. There will never be new or hidden meaning discovered in any text – ONLY new application. Third, derive universal, timeless truths from the text. This is accomplished by stating the intent of the text as well as accurately conveying the intent of the author. Finally, develop life applications. This will bring the truth to one’s heart. This presupposes that one will obey the teaching of the text in specific application to his own life.

COMMANDS AND PRINCIPLES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

In the Christian life, there are certain commands and principles applicable to all. For instance, in Matthew 28:19, 20, Jesus commanded His disciples to “go,” to “teach” and to “baptize.” This was not a request or item for debate: it was a command. Principles are a personal or specific basis of conduct. Principles are rules or methods that one adopts into their life. It is necessary to understand the difference between commands and principles in the Christian life.

Commands

Commands are orders or duties regarding a specific thing or action. Commands are restrictive, not generalized and leave no room for addition or subtraction. Many times commands are phrased in the form of rules.

Principles

Principle means to understand the nature of a thing or action. Principles are broad in its application. Though principles are generalized, they are always applicable. Principles may be adapted to particular circumstances as a ‘Code of Conduct’ and attitude.

The Commands and Principles of the Old and New Testaments

The Old Testament is mostly phrased in the form of commands for actions and observances. God, even though He commands, has always demanded heart-felt obedience (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8). This method of communicating the Word of God is consistent with the Spiritual needs of children rather than adults.

The New Testament is phrased in the form of principles for actions and observances. The Spirit of the Law is the main concern in the New Testament rather than the Letter of the Law. However, living by the

Spirit of the Law is not a loophole for lawlessness. This method of communicating the Word of God is consistent with the Spiritual maturity of adults and not children.

The Christian Conscience and the Word of God

A person's conscience is the inner attitudes and values that determine his conduct and perspective of life. A person should allow the principles of the Bible to shape their values and then conform their thinking and living to it. By doing so, one discovers the Scriptures written upon their heart subjectively, as well as, on the pages of the Bible Objectively.

A Christian Lifestyle and Secular Society

When reading of the "world" in the New Testament, one is reading the Greek word *cosmos*. *Cosmos* most often refers to the inhabited earth and the people who live on the earth, which functions apart from God. Satan is the ruler of this "cosmos" (John 12:31; 16:11; 1 John 5:19). By the simple definition that the word *world* refers to a world system ruled by Satan, one can more readily appreciate Christ's claims that believers are no longer of the world—they are no longer ruled by sin, nor are they bound by the principles of the world. In addition, believers are being changed into the image of Christ, causing their interest in the things of the world to become less and less as they mature in Christ.

Believers in Jesus Christ are simply in the world—physically present—but not of it, not part of its values (John 17:14-15). As believers, they should be set apart from the world. This is the meaning of being holy and living a holy, righteous life—to be set apart. Believers are not to engage in the sinful activities the world promotes, nor are they to retain the insipid, corrupt mind that the world creates. Rather, they are to transform themselves, by the renewing of their minds, to that of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2). This is a daily activity and commitment.

We must also understand that being in the world, but not of it, is necessary if we are to be a light to those who are in spiritual darkness. We are to live in such a way that those outside the faith see our good deeds and our manner and know that there is something "different" about us. Christians who make every effort to live, think and act like those who do not know Christ do Him a great disservice. Even the heathen knows that "by their fruits you shall know them," and as Christians, we should exhibit the fruit of the Spirit within us.

Being "in" the world also means they can enjoy the things of the world, such as the beautiful creation God has given us, but they are not to immerse ourselves in what the world values, nor are they to chase after worldly pleasures. The believer's separation from the world does not mean isolation. Pleasure is no longer the believers calling in life, as it once was, but rather the worship of God.

METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY

THE TWELVE METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY:

- A. **The Devotional Method.** Select a short portion of your Bible and prayerfully meditate on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply it to your life.
- B. **The Chapter Summary Method.** Read a particular Chapter of the Bible through at least 5 times, then write down a summary statement of what you just read.
- C. **The Character Quality Method.** Choose a character quality you would like to improve in your life, then study what the Bible has to say about it.
- D. **The Thematic Method.** Select a theme to study. List 3-5 questions you'd like to answer about the theme. Find all the references relating to your theme and record the answers to your questions.
- E. **The Biographical Method.** Select a Bible Character and research all the verses about that person in order to study his life and characteristics. Make notes on his attitudes, strengths, weaknesses. Then apply what you've learned to your own life.
- F. **The Topical Method.** Collect and compare all the verses you can find relating to a particular topic. Organize your findings in an outline that you can share with others.
- G. **The Word Study Method.** Study the important words of the Bible. Find out how many times the word is found in Scripture and how it is used. Find out what the original meaning of the word is (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).
- H. **The Book Background Method.** Study how history, geography, culture, science and politics affected what happened in the Bible times. Use reference books to increase your knowledge base.
- I. **The Book Survey Method.** Survey and entire book of the Bible by reading it through several times and get an overview of the general subject matter. Study the background of the book and makes notes/comments.
- J. **The Chapter Analysis Method.** Master the content of a particular chapter of a book by doing an in-depth study of each verse in that chapter. Take each verse apart – word-by-word.
- K. **The Book Synthesis Method.** Summarize the contents and main themes in a book after you have read it through several times. Make an outline of the book. This can be accomplished after you have completed the Book Survey Method and the Chapter Analysis Method.
- L. **The Verse-by-Verse Method.** Select one passage of Scripture and examine it in detail by asking questions (who, what, when, where, how, why), finding cross-references, and paraphrasing each verse. Record a possible application of each verse you study.

THE DEVOTIONAL METHOD

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"

"I **can** do all things through Christ which strengthens me"

"I can **do** all things through Christ which strengthens me"

"I can do **all** things through Christ which strengthens me"

"I can do all **things** through Christ which strengthens me"

"I can do all things **through** Christ which strengthens me"

“I can do all things through **Christ** which strengthens me”
 “I can do all things through Christ **which** strengthens me”
 “I can do all things through Christ which **strengthens** me”
 “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens **me**”

Use the S-P-A-C-E-P-E-T-S Method:

Sin to confess? Do I need to make any restitution?
Promise to claim? Is it a universal promise? Have I meet the condition(s)?
Attitude to change? Am I willing to work on a negative attitude and make it a positive one?
Command to obey? Am I willing to do it no matter how I feel?
Example to follow? Is it a positive example to follow or a negative one to avoid?
Pray to pray? Is there something specific I should pray about?
Error to avoid? Are there problems I should be alert and aware of?
Truth to believe? What new things can I learn about God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit or new teachings?
Something to praise God for? Is there something here I can be thankful for?

Whatever method you use for study, it should:

1. Be *Personal* – “I need to . . .”
2. Be *Practical* – “I need to lose some weight.”
3. Be *Possible* – “I need to lose 10 pounds.”
4. Be *Provable* – “I need to lose 10 pounds before the end of the month.”

THE CHAPTER SUMMARY METHOD

STEP ONE – Caption	STEP SIX – Challenges
STEP TWO – Contents	STEP SEVEN – Cross-References
STEP THREE – Chief People	STEP EIGHT – Christ Seen
STEP FOUR – Choice Verse	STEP NINE – Central Lesson(s)
STEP FIVE – Crucial Word(s)	STEP TEN - Conclusion

THE CHARACTER QUALITY METHOD

STEP ONE – Name the Quality

STEP TWO – Name the Opposite Quality

STEP THREE – Do a Simple Word Study

STEP FOUR – Find Some Cross-References

STEP FIVE – Do a Brief Biographical Study

STEP SIX – Find a Memory Verse

STEP SEVEN – Select a Situation or Relationship to work on

STEP EIGHT – Plan a Specific Project

STEP NINE – Write Out a Personal Illustration

THE THEMATIC METHOD

THEME: Anger in the Book of Proverbs

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What are the characteristics of an angry man?
2. What causes anger?
3. What are the results of anger?
4. What is the cure for anger?

LIST OF REFERENCES:

List all the Scripture references you choose for this particular study

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS:

Give answers to the questions you asked above

CONCLUSIONS: *Write out your conclusions and summaries of the verses studied*

APPLICATION: *Write out a personal, practical, possible and measurable application*

THE BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY METHOD

1. **NAME:** Stephen

2. **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Acts 6:3-8:2

Acts 11:19

Acts 22:20

3. **FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Stephen was an early Christian who had a tremendous testimony in the church, was a powerful preacher and witness, and was willing to die for his faith (not stoned to death but rocked to sleep!)

4. **OUTLINE OF HIS/HER LIFE:**

A. Chosen by early church as a leader

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To help resolve conflict (Acts 6:5) 2. On the basis of certain Godly characteristics (Acts 6:3, 5, 8) B. He had a wide ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waited on tables (Acts 6:2, 5) 2. Performed miracles (Acts 6:8) 3. Preached and taught powerfully (Acts 6:10) C. He was persecuted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opposed by Jews from “overseas” (Acts 6:9) 2. Falsely accused (Acts 6:11) 3. Arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:12-14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. False witnesses testified against him b. Defended himself with a masterful review of the Old Testament (Acts 7:2-53) c. Testified to Jesus (Acts 7:55, 56) d. Stoned by angry mob (Acts 7:57-60) D. He had a ministry after his death – persecution caused the church to spread (Acts 8:2-4; 11:19) 	<p>5. GENERAL INSIGHTS: Answers to Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Why was chosen to be a leader? Because – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3) 2. He was full of faith and the Spirit (Acts 6:5) 3. He was full of God’s grace and power (Acts 6:8) 4. He knew the Scriptures (Acts 7:2-53) B. What was his response to false accusations? He remained calm and silent and only answered when questioned by the high priest. C. Are there any parallels with Jesus? Yes – Christ was also falsely accuses, showed love and concern for his accusers, and died an “undeserved” death. D. What was his attitude toward his accusers? He was forgiving and prayed that God would forgive them as well. E. What were the long-term results of his life, ministry and death? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They furthered the plan of God to reach the Gentiles 2. His death caused the disciples to scatter abroad and fulfill the commands of Acts 1:8 3. His death help bring Paul to Christ
<p>6. CHARACTER QUALITIES IDENTIFIED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Spirit-filled (Acts 6:3, 5, 10) B. Wise (Acts 6:3, 10) C. Faithful (Acts 6:5) D. Available to God (Acts 6:8) E. Persistent (Acts 6:10) F. Holy (Acts 6:15) G. Knowledgeable (Acts 7) H. Bold (Acts 7:51-53) I. Brave (Acts 7:51-53) J. Forgiving (Acts 7:60) K. Respected by others (Acts 8:2) L. A witness to Jesus (Acts 22:20) 	<p>7. BIBLE TRUTHS ILLUSTRATED IN HIS OR HER LIFE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The presence and comfort of the Holy Spirit in the trials of life (Acts 7:54, 55; Heb. 13:5,6) B. False accusations and persecution will come in our lives (Acts 6:11)

C. God's grace is sufficient for all our trials (Acts 6:10; 1 Cor. 1:27-31; 2 Cor. 12:9)
<p>8. SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM HIS OR HER LIFE: Stephen's life demonstrated his commitment to serve the Lord and his willingness to give up everything, pick-up his cross and follow Christ, even to his death. He had a great testimony before the church "<i>full of the Spirit and wisdom . . . faith . . . God's grace and power.</i>" He was a great witness in both life and death. He was strong in his faith, because he was strong in the word!</p>
<p>9. PERSONAL APPLICATION: I want to be a servant like Stephen and be strong in my faith through study of God's Word. I want to be able to give answers to questions people ask about the Scripture. I commit myself to at least 15 minutes of quiet time every day to get to know Christ better. I also commit myself to learn 2 Bible verse by memory each week.</p>
<p>10. TRANSFERABLE CONCEPTS: (Ways I can share this message with others)</p> <p>A. The necessity of a personal walk with Jesus Christ. The only way that we can become people of faith and wisdom is to have a daily walk with Christ. Stephen was strong in his faith because he walked with Christ.</p> <p>B. The necessity of spending time in God's Word. If we are to have the faith and wisdom of Stephen, we have to spend time in God's Word. The Bible gives me the tools to grow in wisdom and to help others grow as well.</p> <p>C. The necessity to have courage in times of trial and persecutions. We need to pray that God will give us boldness with others.</p>
<p>11. SOMEONE I INTEND TO SHARE THIS STUDY WITH: A. The Tuesday night Bible Study Group from Freedom Biker Church</p>

THE TOPICAL METHOD

STEP ONE Compile a List of Words

Make a list of all the related words (synonyms and antonyms), phrases, events, and anything else that could have something to do with your topic. If you are studying "*Suffereing*" for example, you would want to list words such as *affliction, anger, chastisement, grief, health, pain, sorrow, trials, tribulations*, etc. If you find your topic is too broad, narrow it down to a size that is manageable.

STEP TWO Collect Bible References

Gather all the verses you can find related to the topic (A good Concordance or Topical Bible will help).

STEP THREE Consider Each Reference Individually

Look up, read and study each verse relating to the topic. Ensure that you take the verses in context. Ask as many questions as you can about the verses. Remember to ask Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Define all the key words/phrases you come across.

STEP FOUR Compare and Group the References

After you have carefully studied all the verses individually, you will begin to notice that some of the references naturally complement each other and deal with the same area of the topic you're studying. Categorize these on a piece of paper.

STEP FIVE Condense Your Study into an Outline

Logically arrange your main divisions from Step Four. You do this by grouping related or similar references together into natural divisions. Then arrange these divisions into a logical pattern. This will help you organize your study in a method that will help you share with others.

STEP SIX Conclude Your Study

Do this in two parts: 1. Summarize your findings in a brief paragraph, then write out a practical application drawn from summary. Be personal/practical, writing a possible and measurable application.

THE WORD STUDY METHOD

- STEP ONE** – Choose Your Word
- STEP TWO** – Finds its English Definition
- STEP THREE** – Compare Translations
- STEP FOUR** – Write Down the Definition of the Original Word
- STEP FIVE** – Check the Word’s Occurrences in the Bible
- STEP SIX** – Find the Root Meaning and Origin of the Word
- STEP SEVEN** – Discover How the Word is used in the Bible
- STEP EIGHT** – Write out and Application

THE BOOK BACKGROUND METHOD

- STEP ONE** – Choose the Subject or Book of the Bible
- STEP TWO** – List Your Reference Tools
- STEP THREE** – Obtain Insights from Geography
- STEP FOUR** – Get Insights from History
- STEP FIVE** – Discover Some Insights from Culture
- STEP SIX** – Research Insights from the Political Environment
- STEP SEVEN** – Summarize Your Research
- STEP EIGHT** – Write Out a Personal Application

THE BOOK SURVEY METHOD

- STEP ONE** – Read the Book
- STEP TWO** – Make Notes on What You Read
- STEP THREE** – Do a Background Study
- STEP FOUR** – Make a Horizontal Chart of the Book’s Content
- STEP FIVE** – Make a Tentative Outline of the Book
- STEP SIX** – Write Out a Personal Application

THE CHAPTER ANALYSIS METHOD

STEP ONE – Write Out a Chapter Summary

STEP TWO – List Your Observations

STEP THREE – Ask Interpretation Questions

STEP FOUR – Correlate Your Chapter with Other Scriptures

STEP FIVE – List Some Possible Applications

STEP SIX – Write Down Some Concluding Thoughts

STEP SEVEN – Write Out One Application

THE BOOK SYNTHESIS METHOD

STEP ONE – Reread the Book

STEP TWO – Write Out a Detailed, Final Outline

STEP THREE – Write Down a Descriptive Book Title

STEP FOUR – Make a Summary of Your Insights

STEP FIVE – Write Out a Personal Application

STEP SIX – Share the Results of Your Study with Others

THE VERSE-BY-VERSE ANALYSIS METHOD (Example: I Timothy 1:1-2)

VERSES	PERSONAL PARAPHRASE	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	CROSS-REFERENCES	INSIGHTS	POSSIBLE PERSONAL APPLICATIONS
1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus our hope.	Paul, the messenger of Jesus Christ, instructed by God who Saved him and Christ who is his hope.	1. Who is Paul? 2. What is an Apostle? 3. Paul was Saul – of the house of Benjamin (lineage of King Saul). He was saved on the Road to Damascus. 4. An Apostle, from the Greek word <i>Apostolos</i> , is a “messenger,” a “sent one.”	Apostle: 2 Cor. 1:1 God my Savior: Lk. 1:47 Tit. 1:3 Christ our Hope: Col. 1:27	1. The name Paul comes from the Latin word <i>Paulus</i> , which means “little”	I must begin seeing myself as an Ambassador of Jesus Christ, sent with His authority to deliver His message. The authority of my witness is only as strong as my awareness of the mission.
1:2 To Timothy,	To Timothy, my child in the faith,	1. What does Timothy mean?	My Child: II Tim. 1:2	Mercy comes from God.	Lord, help me to live my life

my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.	may God's abounding grace, mercy and peace through Christ Jesus be yours always!	2. What is Grace? 3. What is peace? 4. What is Mercy? 5. Timothy means "he who honors God." 6. Grace is "unmerited favor" 7. Peace is "to be complete," "in the right relationship." 8. Mercy means "Kindness or goodwill toward the afflicted."	Grace, Peace and Mercy: I Cor. 1:3 II Cor. 1:2,3 Rom. 1:5,7 Gal. 1:3 Eph. 1:2 Phil. 1:2 Col. 1:2 I Thes. 1:1 II Thes 1:2 II Tim. 1:2 Tit. 1:4 Ph. 1:3	Peace comes from a right relationship with Jesus Christ. You can't have God's mercy without first having peace through His Son.	like Timothy, "one who honors God" by sharing God's grace, mercy and peace on all those I come in contact with.
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ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS:

Joe “Mojo” Moore. Joe is the Founder and Senior Pastor of *Ramble On Biker Church*. Mojo is also the Chaplain and Sgt-at-Arms for the US Military Vets M/C, SC1 in Greenville, SC. Though a Biker Church, ROBC is a church first, and has members from all walks of life. *ROBC* is a non-denominational church that adheres strictly to the Word of God as it’s road map. Joe has attended Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College, Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Liberty University, Tabernacle Baptist College, Madison University and Andersonville Theological Seminary. Joe holds the degrees of *Bachelor of Theology* (Andersonville Baptist Seminary), *Master of Ministry* (Andersonville Baptist Seminary), *Master of Theology* (Tabernacle Baptist College), *Executive Master of Business Administration* (Madison University) and the *Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership* (Andersonville Theological Seminary).