

STEPS to FOLLOWING JESUS - (Week 3)

- Establishing our Footing for the Journey Ahead

Wk 3 - The BIBLE – part 2 - Bible Inspiration & Illumination

I. Open in PRAYER -

II. **Holy Scriptures**

- 66 books
- 39 OT / 27 NT
- 1189 chapters (added around 1227)
- 31,173 verses (added around 1551 AD)
- The entire BIBLE points to our Creator God – His love for His creation (man) – The FALL of SIN (broke all of creation and separated man from our Holy God) – and God’s relentless gracious loving pursuit of man thru JESUS
- Its ALL about JESUS!

III. **INSPIRATION of the HOLY SCRIPTURES (the BIBLE)**

A. **Divine Inspiration** - the doctrine of Christian theology that

- (1) the human writers of the original transcripts (Scripture) were supernaturally led and influenced directly by God to write what they wrote. GOD literally revealed Himself, His heart, and His will to and through chosen human writers, who faithfully wrote and recorded what was given them by God
- (2) these Holy Spirit inspired transcripts were controlled, preserved, copied, and passed down through the generations providentially by God
- (3) the product of these God-authored and God-protected works is rightly received and treated as the message of God to mankind.

I. **Inspiration in Easy Terms to Understand:**

- **2 Peter 1:16-21 ; Ezekiel 11:5 ; Acts 28:25**
- GOD wrote the BIBLE through _____ .
- The Holy Spirit of GOD is the _____ .

B. **Understanding Divine Inspiration**

- (1) One of God’s creates miracles is seen in His use of over 40 imperfect people to pen His _____ Word and message.
- (2) Two Important Pieces of Divine Inspiration

- Its **VERBAL** ... meaning God has inspired the _____, not just the general ideas.
- **Matthew 5:17-20 ; Matthew 22:43-44** (every word inspired)
- Its **PLENARY** ... meaning God has inspired _____ of it, not just part.
- **2 Timothy 3: 15-17**

C. Why Divine Inspiration is So Important

(1) It means God's Word is to be our _____.

(2) Psalm 119:9 ; Psalm 33:4 ; Proverbs 3:5-7

(3) Because we know and trust the Bible to be the Inspired Word of God, we have great confidence in it as our truth. When there is any conflict between my thoughts, feelings, emotions, opinions of others, or past teachings and the BIBLE ... the BIBLE is ALWAYS RIGHT.

"If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself." - Augustine

III. **ILLUMINATION of the HOLY SCRIPTURES (the BIBLE)**

A. The "3" Words for Receiving the WORD of GOD

- **Revelation:** Revealed by God Himself, completed.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3**
- **Inspiration:** God-Inspired Word, completed.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3 ; Ephesians 3:1-5 ; Luke 16:16 ; Ephesians 2:19-20 ; 1 John 4:1-6**
- Entire New Testament was written by or for Apostles
- **1 Corinthians 2:10-13**
- Luke & Mark were NOT apostles – but Mark wrote per Peter and Luke for Paul. There was never an open door for any non-apostolic writers in the early church ... nor today.
- Many today still claim to have apostolic authority – God is giving new and divine revelation through them ... this would not fly with the early church and it does not fly here.
- **Romans 3:4** God's Word is TRUE – even if everyone else is a liar.
- **ILLUMINATION:** Happening until the Lord returns for us!
- **Psalm 119:105** ... a lamp unto my feet and light unot my path ...
- **1 Corinthians 2: 14-16**
- The supernatural influence or ministry of the Holy Spirit of God that enable all who believe in Christ to grow in wisdom and knowledge and ultimately to understand and rightly divide the Scriptures.

- Until the Holy Spirit illuminates the Word – we are spiritually BLIND
- 2 Corinthians 4: 2-4
- 2 Timothy 2:15 - rightly dividing the Word of Truth – one story not 10

B. “4” things required for Holy Spirit Illumination of His Word:

(1) We must _____ God’s Word _____ .

- Psalm 119;97 ; Proverbs 2:3-6
- The Bible – the Word of God – is pictured powerfully as life-changing and described as such in word pictures:
 - _____ 1 Peter 1:23
 - _____ Ephesians 6:17 ; Hebrews 4:12
 - _____ Matthew 4:4 ; 1 Peter 2:2
 - _____ & _____ Jeremiah 23:29
 - _____ James 1:23-25

(2) We must understand God’s Word _____ .

- The _____ makes it possible to understand the Bible.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12-15 ; John 16:13
- The Holy Spirit makes me _____ for understanding the Bible.
- 1 John 2:20-27

(3) We must _____ God’s Word _____ .

- 2 Timothy 2:15-16

(4) We must _____ God’s Word _____ .

- 1 Timothy 4:15-16 ; Acts 17:11 ; Colossians 3:16 ; James 1:22
- Commit to trust in the truth of God’s Word.
- Dig in and Dig Some More! (get your answers)
- Share what you are learning with others.
- ACT on what you learn in the Word.

C. HEAD – HEART – HANDS Bible Study

(1) **HEAD:** (context) ask Who? What? Where? When? Unpack the text. Cross reference the text. What is the text saying? Original audience or listener? (Concordance, Commentary, etc)

- (2) **HEART:** (interpretation) What is the meaning of the text? What was and IS God saying to ME? What does this text teach me about JESUS and how is my life supposed to be transformed in order to align with it?
- (3) **HANDS:** (application) How do i apply this text to my life today? What am I supposed to do with this text and the truth I have taken from it?

TOOLS for BIBLE STUDY

- Study Bibles (life application, etc)
- Concordances (word studies)
- Bible Software (Sword, Logos, Word, etc)
- Bible Dictionaries (helpful in understanding Bible words)
- Bible Atlas, Maps, and Time Lines (turns the light on when & where)
- Bible Commentaries and Handbooks (still man's opinion – but often helpful)
- Special Bibles (Interlinear, Blue letter, Chronological, etc)

WHY Study the Bible?

- (1) To know God (Genesis 1-3)
- (2) To grow in the peace & knowledge of God (Psalm 119:12-18 ; 1 Tim 6:17)
- (3) To know God's Word, Will, and Direction. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- (4) To understand God's Word. (John 14:7-9)
- (5) To learn God's direction for your life. (Psalm 119:11)
- (6) To find comfort and hope. (Romans 15:4)
- (7) To allow God's light to show areas needing alignment. (Hebrews 4:12-16)
- (8) To grow in holiness and purity. (John 17:17-23)
- (9) To know and grow in obedience to the Word of God. (John 13:34-35)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

– Hebrews 4:12