

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

(1 Corinthians 2:12-14, NIV)

- ▶ The Spirit **inspired** the Word.
- ▶ The Spirit illuminates the Word.
- ▶ The Spirit **instructs** us in the Word.

So HOW Do We Study The Bible?

- Study the Bible Prayerfully.
 - ▶ We NEVER study the Bible alone.
- Study the Bible **Humbly**.
 - ▶ Do you really want to know Him?
- Study the Bible **Carefully**.
 - ▶ We want to understand the text rightly.
- Study the Bible Joyfully.
 - ▶ Bible study involves the thrill of personal discovery.
- Study the Bible **Simply**.
 - ▶ You, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit...
 - ▶ If you can read, you can study.
- Study the Bible Confidently.
 - ▶ The Holy Spirit is in you to enable you to do this!
- Study the Bible Consistently.
 - ▶ We need to be equipped to study every text of every book.
- Study the Bible **Diligently**.
 - ▶ Learning to study the Bible will not happen overnight.
- Study the Bible Intentionally.
 - ▶ Always study with a notebook and pen/pencil in hand.
- Study the Bible **Personally**.
 - ▶ You will fall in love with the Author of the Book.
 - ▶ You will find true life under the authority of the Book.

DANGEROUS APPROACHES TO BIBLE STUDY...

- The emotional approach.
 - ▶ What **feels** right to me?
- The spiritual approach.
 - ▶ What deep, hidden meaning is there for me?

- The pragmatic approach.
 - ▶ What **works** best for me?
- The superficial approach.
 - ▶ What does this **mean** to me?

A DEPENDABLE APPROACH TO BIBLE STUDY...

Imagine going on a mission trip...

- Observe their home: What do I **see**?
- Understand their home: What does it **mean**?
- Bring it back home: How does it **relate**?
- Apply it in your home: What do I **do**?

Let's take a trip into the Word...

- Observe their home: What do I see?
 - ▶ This step involves **exploration**.
 - ▶ Discover what the text says.
 - ▶ A question of **content**.
- Understand their home: What does it mean?
 - ▶ This step involves **interpretation**.
 - ▶ Discover what the text means.
 - ▶ A question of **context**.
- Bring it back home: How does it relate?
 - ▶ This step involves **implications**.
 - ▶ Discover how the text travels.
 - ▶ A question of **connection**.
- Apply it in your home: What do I do?
 - ▶ This step involves **application**.
 - ▶ Discover how the text transforms.
 - ▶ A question of **conduct**.

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: What Do I See?

Two Revolutionary Disciplines for Reading the Bible...

- Learn to **listen**.
- Learn to **look**.

Learn to Listen...

- Listen **thoughtfully**.
 - ▶ Bible study is not a mindless activity.
- Listen thoroughly.
 - ▶ If we want to understand the Bible, we've got to bombard it with questions.