Basic Content	The readers' friends of "who? what? where? when?" prove most helpful. Moreover, the matters of "why" and "how" can be particularly powerful tools in probing deeply below the surface.
Key Words Word Meanings	When you first read a passage, look for the key words important to the passage. Repetition of words will sometimes give you a clue. Underline them in your Bible. Make note of words which you might want to study in detail.
Important Connectives Conjunctions, Prepositions' adverbs	Connectives are very important in revealing key ideas and relationships. Be on the alert for some of the following: but – introduces a contrast if – introduces conditional clause (Ifthen) for, because, therefore – introduces reason or results clause in order that – prepares for a "purpose" statement in, into, with, by, upon – prepositions after, while, until, immediately – adverbs
Historical / Cultural Context	Be sensitive to cultural issues and values involving either the characters in a narrative or the writer of the passage. Be alert to the historical, political, economic, and cultural framework which is foundational to a passage's 1st Century meaning. In fact, these matters are <i>always</i> at work!
Grammatical Construction Verbs, nouns, pronouns adverbs, adjectives words of scope	Note the grammatical construction. Be on the alert for verbs and their tenses (past-present-future), for the use of pronouns (singular-plural), and for adverbs and adjectives and the way they enhance-illuminate the passage. Note words of scope: All, each, every, some, many, none, etc. Note words of time: After, while, immediately
Atmosphere Tone	Note the general tone of a passage. It may be characterized by the mood of joy, thanksgiving, concern, humility, zeal, anger, or caution. Moreover, the tone of a passage may vary as a writer moves from one idea to another. Also note the use of "emotive" words, and phrases to reveal feelings.

