

# Studying the Bible and the Holy Spirit

## Our study of the Bible needs to be dependent upon the Holy Spirit

Psalm 119: 124, 125 reads:

Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees. I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

- for wisdom
- for insight
- for understanding

The Holy Spirit:

1. Gives us the ability to discern error.
    - a. Consider the following:
      - It is alright to steal
      - It is alright to view pornography
      - It is alright to give money to the poor
      - It is alright to visit the lonely
      - It is alright to commit adultery
      - It is alright to visit and get counsel from psychics
    - b. What are your answers based on?
  2. Teaches and guides us into the truth revealed in the Bible.
  3. Opens our minds to understand God's word as Truth
  4. Enables us to obey the Truth
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## 4 Goals of Studying the Bible

1. Prepare God's people for ministry
  2. Conforming believers to the image of God.
    - a. Educational goal
      - i. Increase what people know
      - ii. John 13:17- Jesus told his disciples, "You know these things..."
    - b. Behavioral goal
      - i. Change conduct
      - ii. Learning so that we will live a lifestyle that reflects the teachings of the word and not the world
    - c. Attitudinal goal
      - i. Change how we feel and think so our attitudes will be more like Jesus.
  3. To help believers to be self-motivated to feed upon the Word of God.
  4. To develop a biblical view of life (worldview).
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## Resources for Studying the Bible

There are 5 basic tools I use when I study the Bible:

- Concordance
- Bible dictionary
- Bible atlas
- Commentaries
- Interlinear Bible

### **Concordance**

A **Bible concordance** is an alphabetical listing of words and phrases found in the Holy Bible and shows where the terms occur throughout all books of Scripture. If you can remember just one word in a verse, you can often find what you are looking for. With cross-references for verses, concordances make it easy to understand the meaning of terms and the context in which those words are used. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is the most widely known and popular and includes Greek and Hebrew dictionaries for a better understanding of the original meaning. Additional concordances such as Naves Topical and Torrey's Topical are valuable Bible study resources.

### **Bible dictionary**

**Bible dictionaries** are concise reference tools that, at a minimum, provide a short definition of an English word. But they can also give definitions of the original Hebrew or Greek words. Some add scripture references, pronunciation guides, parts of speech, word derivations, synonyms, and brief contexts. There are also dictionaries for Bible names, subjects, places, backgrounds, and themes.

### **Bible Atlas**

A **Bible atlas** focuses on the geography, civilizations and cartography (maps) of the Holy Land. It describes the movements of biblical characters, trade routes and battles. It also refers to archaeological excavations; illustrations of artifacts; and a comparative chronology of early civilizations that relate to the Bible.

### **Bible commentary**

**Bible commentaries** aid in the study of Scripture by providing explanation and interpretation of Biblical text. They offer background information on authorship, history, setting, and themes. One can also find commentaries which give verse by verse explanations. A commentary may also explain the language used in a section of text.

### **Interlinear Bible**

An **Interlinear Bible** is used to examine the Greek and Hebrew words that lie behind our English translations. It lists the Hebrew or Greek word in one line and below the Hebrew or Greek word which corresponds with the English word, or words, that translate the meaning of the original word.

## **4 Elements to Inductive Bible Study**

1. Observation
  - a. involves asking questions in search for answers
  - b. ask questions relating to

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?

Examples:

Who?

- Who is the author?
- -mindset
- -relationship to the recipients
- -circumstances

Who is/are the Recipient(s)

- relationship to the author
- circumstances
- needs

What?

- What are the ideas presented?
- What themes are repeated?
- What themes are emphasized?
- What problems are being addressed?

## 2. Interpretation

- ...is interaction with the information discovered through observation, so that the parts start to fit together and make sense as a whole.
- “What is the writer really saying?”

## 3. Application

- How does it apply to your life?