

3 Steps to Studying the Bible More Effectively

Adapted from "Living by the Book" by Dr. Howard Hendricks

1. Observation: What do you see?

Look for terms, people, places, and concepts that are:

1. Emphasized
2. Alike
3. Repeated
4. Unlike
5. True to Life
6. Related

2. Interpretation: What does it mean?

- 5 Keys to interpretation:
 - Content (information gathered in the observation stage)
 - Context (literary, historical, cultural, geographic, and theological)
 - Culture (historical factors & influences that led to the writing of the text)
 - Comparison (compare Scripture to Scripture)
 - Consultation (concordances, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc.)

3. Application: What am I going to do with this truth? When, where, and how am I going to apply it?

- Steps for Application:
 - Know the Text (using observation then interpretation then application)
 - Know yourself (Romans 12:3, 1 Timothy 4:16)
 - *What are my assets?*
 - *What are my liabilities?*
 - Relate the Truth of the Word to your experience (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - How does this particulate passage relate to:
 - *Your relationship with God?*
 - *Your view of yourself and your personal identity?*
 - *Your relationship with other people?*
 - *Your relationship to the Enemy?*
 - Meditate on and Memorize Scripture (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-2)
 - Practice
 - *Is there an example for me to follow?*
 - *Is there a sin to avoid?*
 - *Is there a promise to claim?*
 - *Is there a prayer to repeat?*
 - *Is there a command to obey?*
 - *Is there a condition to meet? (John 15:7)*
 - *Is there a verse to memorize?*
 - *Is there a challenge to face?*

"The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ's image. Not to make you a smarter sinner but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts but to transform your life." – Dr. Howard Hendricks