

## KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

**Many study the Bible, without ever getting to know the Bible** - John 5:39-40 - 39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet **YOU REFUSE to come to me to have life.**

**Many are constantly learning while in reality, they are learning nothing (Product of "Terrible time" people)** - 2 Tim 3:7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.

**\*How we understand the Bible is not just based on if we study the Bible, it is also based on HOW**

1. **Our purpose MUST be to please God ONLY** - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **Do not be deceived:** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature **will reap destruction**; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit **WILL REAP ETERNAL LIFE.**
2. **We must focus, be taught, and understand, Spiritually** - 1 Cor 2:12-14 - 12 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.** 13 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.** 14 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.**
3. **Realize that God's Word is perfect and we are NEVER to add to it**  
Ps 18:30 - 30 As for God, his way is perfect; **the word of the Lord is flawless.** He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.  
Prov 30:5-6 - 5 "**Every word of God is flawless**; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 **Do not add to his words**, or **HE WILL** rebuke you and prove you a liar.
4. **Recognize the Bible is from God, NOT Man. Man just wrote what God said-**  
2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 **ALL SCRIPTURE is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Peter 1:20-21 - 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but **men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**
5. **We must recognize the Bible is timeless and alive** - Heb 4:12-13 - 12 For **THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE.** Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes** of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him **to whom we must give account.**
6. **Let go of old ways of thinking (in every way) and look to the Bible for the right way to think** - Rom 12:2 **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is** — his good, pleasing and perfect will.  
**\*Recognize, what many are doing is trying to CONTINUE their old ways while ADDING God's ways which are conflicting.**
7. **You must regularly attend a "Bible teaching" church** - Eph 4:11-16 - 11 **IT WAS HE** who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 **until WE ALL reach UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 **THEN** we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 **INSTEAD, speaking the truth in love**, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
  - a. **We make sure it's a true Bible teaching church by making sure the messages are from the Word** - Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined THE SCRIPTURES every day to see if what Paul said was true.
8. **Stay in the Word only** - 1 Cor 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, **"do not go beyond what is written."** Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.
9. **All teaching must be with Sound doctrine** - Titus 2:1 - You **must teach** what is in accord with sound doctrine. (Matt 4:7)
10. **Test all teachings** - 1 John 4:1-3 - Dear friends, **DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT**, but **test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, →

→ 3 but every spirit that **does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God**. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

11. **Use the Bible to interpret the Bible** Gen 40:8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "**Do not interpretations belong to God?** Tell me your dreams."
12. **Through faith; stop going to the Bible to support what you think you understand... go to the Bible for Understanding!!!**  
**Must have faith** - Heb 4:2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard **DID NOT COMBINE IT WITH FAITH**.  
**Completely Trust in God** - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 **Trust in the Lord** with all your heart and **LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING**; 6 **in all your ways** acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes**; **FEAR THE LORD** and shun evil.
13. **Do what it says!!!** - James 1:22-25 - 22 **Do not merely listen to the word, and SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS.** 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, **BUT DOING IT** — he will be blessed in what he does.
14. **Repeat...** 2 Peter 1:13-15 - 13 I think it is right to **REFRESH YOUR MEMORY** as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure **you will always be able to remember these things**.